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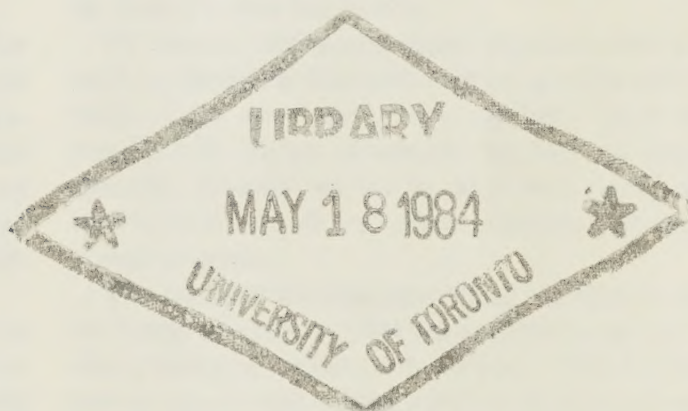


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Thursday, May 10, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

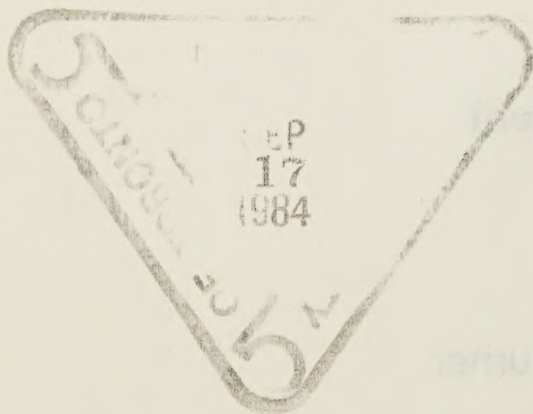
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 10, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES (concluded)

Mr. Chairman: There is one hour and 30 minutes remaining.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, at the close on Monday evening at six o'clock, I was responding to questions of the critics of the two opposition parties. We touched on a few of them, but there were many outstanding.

I would like to take the next short while to put on the record some refreshment as to the nature of the question and the answer, then we can carry on with the rest of the estimates and other questions which will undoubtedly be coming forth.

A few questions were asked by the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty). One related to the floral gardens being built for the bicentennial celebrations in Ontario, and whether there was still going to be access for the handicapped. I can assure the member provision for the handicapped has been included in the design of the sidewalk around the floral gardens.

In fact, there will be no steps whatsoever where the floral display is being built. It will not only be very attractive, help to offset and add further to the display with the flags, but also it will be very accessible. There will be no stairs. There will be a ramp around the floral garden itself. Therefore, I think it will be very attractive and very accessible for all.

The same member was inquiring about re-organization of office space and the short-term action of MetroPlan and whether we had plans to look at space throughout the province. The very simple answer to that is yes. There is no doubt the initiative was in Metropolitan Toronto, because that is obviously where a great abundance of our office space is, but it is carrying on looking at all areas of the province.

Members may recall that in my opening remarks I made reference to a series of planning studies that will document our real estate assets and accommodations in municipalities throughout the province. With the benefit of the data that will, in effect, be collected, correlated and

analysed, we hope we will be able not only to rationalize to the benefit of services to the taxpayer but also obviously to rationalize the actual costs of accommodation and type of accommodation we have throughout the province.

Our role is, of course, dedicated to supporting the public service functions of all our client ministries, but we do actually provide accommodation in consultation with the ministry we are providing it for. In other words, it is not just a one-way street, where they say "This is what we need" and we just go out and do it. Alternatively, we cannot just say, "This is what we have got; you have to take it." Obviously, any space has to be rationalized, utilized and secured on the basis of fulfilling the need of the client ministry, which in turn has to be able to fill its need in relation to its dealings with the public.

Of course, the actual space requirements as such are based on standards that are government-wide. They are usually very uniform; there is room for flexibility, obviously, but they are very uniform. Usually we try to do it with minimal interruption to both our client ministry and the clients it serves.

The member for Erie also asked about review or change of ministry contract procedures and the disciplining of senior civil servants. I think it is safe to say—it may sound a little redundant even to have to pass this on—this ministry, like all ministries, has for many years had a comprehensive corporate policy and procedure manual complementary to the Ontario Manual of Administration. In other words, there is a basic overall manual that all government operates under, and then there is a more specific, sometimes fine-tuned operating manual that best suits and fits in with the overall manual within a particular operating ministry.

Our manual was extensively revised, updated and reissued in a new format in August 1983, so I suppose indirectly it is responding. It was felt it was time to look at it and it was revised and updated. Procedures respecting purchasing, tendering, delegation of authority and other matters pertaining to contractual arrangements were included in this revision. Ministry employees are required to comply with corporate policies and procedure at all times.

With respect to disciplining senior civil servants, the Public Service Act provides the appropriate authority for taking any action that is required, and any separate action would obviously not be in order.

The last question we noted from the member for Erie had to do with the affirmative action program and the percentage of women in the Ministry of Government Services who were participating in accelerated career development initiatives. I can honestly say the Ministry of Government Services does not have to take a back seat to anyone in this regard.

I am very pleased once again to quote some of the statistics used by the member when he commented that according to the last report of the Ontario women crown employees office, 5.1 per cent of women employed by the government are involved in accelerated career development initiatives, but the Ministry of Government Services was up two per cent from the previous year, 1981-82 to 1982-83, to 8.5 per cent of female employees involved in the program.

I am pleased to put on the record that in this past year, the fiscal year just ending, the increase is another two per cent. I know the member for Erie and all honourable members will be very happy to hear this statistic.

Mr. Kerrio: Is that like two in 100?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Why does the member not go over the falls?

We now have 10.5 per cent of the females in the Ministry of Government Services participating in accelerated career development initiatives.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. We are all trying to listen attentively to the minister's response. If he will proceed, I think everyone will make a special effort to keep order.

8:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I am glad to hear that, because I am sure the very valuable and enlightening statistics and explanations I am trying to put on the record are of interest to all who want to hear.

Moving now to the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip), he had several questions and I would like to put the answers to some of those on the record. I am very pleased he is able to be with us this evening; that he was able to rearrange his plans to be in attendance.

The first question I would like to answer is the one about the intercity network lines, the conference calls. The question pertained to whether these had reduced transportation costs

and whether there had been an actual value-for-money study done on the communications program.

I think the statistics speak for themselves. The audio teleconferencing system, which has been in existence for about only 10 months, was used by approximately 500 conferences involving some 5,000 government personnel.

We estimate—and it is true, it can only be that; one can never really be absolutely sure—it has resulted in a travel cost avoidance of more than \$100,000 in this relatively short period. This service is an enhancement to the Ontario government intercity telephone network which, when we think of just the long-distance charges, we estimate produces an annual saving of close to \$9 million. We have the long-distance service at roughly 50 per cent of the normal line charges for long-distance telephone calls.

The rate of utilization for our video teleconferencing service, which now services consolidated buildings in Toronto, Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Oshawa, is apparently in line with other organizations that provide this kind of service: about four conferences per month. We estimate the travel cost avoidance to be about \$24,000. There is a lot less utilization than the audio, but it is quite new and is used in more specific situations. It is obviously more costly than an audio system.

The steady growth we are experiencing in utilization shows people are becoming more familiar and feeling more comfortable with it. People have difficulty at times adjusting to a new system, whether it be teleconferencing by telephone or audio teleconferencing; kind of talking to themselves, so to speak, or talking to a phone or a camera. It does take a little time, but the utilization is growing.

In audio teleconferencing, we have found each call involves an average of seven locations throughout the province. So we can see that not only saves money, which is extremely important, but it also saves an awful lot of time and effort. It gets a lot more public servants on the same wavelength for a relatively low cost.

The same member was inquiring about what kind of input my ministry, as a ministry that probably deals with the most number of contracts in a year, has had into the management study contracted out by Management Board. This was the study announced by the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague) on March 21, 1984.

We are very fortunate that one of the members of the steering committee is the Deputy Minister of Government Services, Mr. Glenn Thompson.

He was involved in selecting the consulting firms. As the member is aware, but just for refreshment, Price Waterhouse Associates and the Canada Consulting Group are making up the study team.

Their study will concentrate in three main areas: accountability framework; administrative policies and practices, and, last but not least, attitudes and motivations of civil servants. This study is just under way.

The senior staff of the Ministry of Government Services has already been extensively involved with providing input to the study team. We are one of several ministries selected for a more intensive and extensive review. Not all ministries are going to be involved in that process because of the nature, time, cost and so on, but we are one of the ministries having a complete input, study and analysis as part of our terms of reference.

The question was also asked as to when the study report would be available. I have been advised that without complications that may show up, which are not expected at this time, the fall of 1984 would be the time the study team would be reporting back to Management Board.

The same member asked about energy conservation measures, the cost benefits, the most beneficial activities and the future plans. I am pleased to report it has been the government's policy in any new construction in the last eight years to highlight and be very much involved in and conscious of the need for energy conservation in the design and construction of those buildings. It is all done on an energy budget basis.

To give members a comparison that may be a little more meaningful, if we think of the buildings that are being designed today as compared to the design back in the early 1960s of the Queen's Park complex that we know as the Macdonald Block, the energy budget then was 10 times greater than the current standard. That is the kind of progress that has been made in design standards, now that we are conscious of the very extensive and expensive price of energy.

The total investment we have made for retrofitting over the period from 1975-76 to 1982-83 is about \$18.4 million, with an estimated saving in expenditures of some \$38 million, so it is better than a two-to-one return, \$2 for every \$1, even in that relatively short period. The other very important part of this is that the savings are ongoing. That is just looking at that particular time. It is not only "a dollar saved is a dollar earned," it is a dollar invested

means many dollars of savings over a period of time.

It is not only a matter of putting in energy conservation measures; part of our program has also been to educate and upgrade the building operators' skills so they are able to take advantage of energy conservation ethics and philosophy, as well as the new technology that has been built into the new buildings. Again, we feel these savings will carry on indefinitely.

What is planned for the future? One of the problems we are having, as all members are aware, is we are now into the bigger projects that are more capital-intensive. I spoke of the number that have been done at a cost of \$18.4 million. These were to varying degrees the small- to medium-sized ones. Some that are coming up are somewhat more significant, and we have, as all ministries do, a cash-flow problem. We do not have enough upfront capital to do some of these as fast as we would like. We know the payback is there, but it still requires the capital up front.

We have a pilot program at present under development with third-party financing. We are going to have the private sector take over and retrofit buildings at its expense. We will pay a fee for the initial energy audit and we will get a payback on this over a period of time, which also benefits the private sector to some degree. Using its capital, we will be able to accelerate our program, presuming this pilot project works out, and we have no reason to believe it will not. We are very encouraged by the programs we have undertaken to date. One problem is we just do not have enough money to do them fast enough.

Mr. Philip: How does that work again? They get paid from the money you save on energy conservation?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: First of all, we pay them or guarantee them a fee for coming up with a plan and making us aware of the problem, the significance of the problem, how to rectify it and so on. Presuming we take the second step, they actually make the changes and their payback on their capital investment is sharing in our savings over the next number of years.

That period of time is negotiable, depending on the capital investment required by the private sector and on the savings. They are very much involved in coming up with an accurate report and solutions that would give them a payback as quickly as possible.

8:20 p.m.

The member for Etobicoke also asked about MetroPlan. I think the actual question was, "What does the 92 per cent completion level for

the short-term action of the MetroPlan represent in reduced office space costs?" Getting down to numbers, the short-term action of MetroPlan involved a total of just under 1.4 million rentable square feet of office space in downtown Toronto. Of that, about 1.3 million, the 92 per cent, has already been altered, vacated or affected in some other way.

The total net costs for implementing the short-term action have been estimated at approximately \$2.1 million. The projected total net cost of avoidance over the next 10 years, the period of our normal lease, is \$39.2 million. Obviously, this has a very positive impact on our rent budget.

Again to get down to specifics, we will permanently vacate approximately 336,000 square feet of that 1.4 million square feet, mostly in the downtown core. In total, this means 31 leases given up at 16 locations.

The member for Etobicoke was also asking about the awarding of contracts for such things as furniture and office space and the criteria the ministry sets in deciding the quality we are going to aim for. He made a specific reference to a constituent who had voiced a concern about the quality of furniture in a particular ministry office.

The furniture provided is in accordance with government standards. Management Board approved standards for furniture are based on five main criteria. They are as follows: what is adequate for the work to be carried out; what position the employee holds; what is functional for the work done; cost, with a maximum cost established for each item; and equally and significantly important, Canadian content.

The current standards have been in place for some time, significantly since 1966 with minor revisions in the meantime, plus the recognition of the technology that has evolved in that time, such as word processors, data processors, etc. All have been added to the guidelines and approved by the Management Board secretariat.

There is one big thing the ministry went to some time ago that saved a great deal of money for the government. Rather than the previous shotgun approach, where every ministry went out and acquired furniture on its own, we arrange and negotiate standard agreements, which are supply contracts and tendered annually. Once these standard agreements are established, ministries draw on the standard agreement and can buy and pay for furniture in their own right, drawing on the negotiated price of the standard agreement.

Mr. Haggerty: Still no central purchasing, though.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is central purchasing, in case the honourable member is not aware of it. We do not have great warehouses; we do not buy 500 desks and store 495 of them. The member may think that is prudent, but I do not. The space to store the 495 desks is pretty expensive. We do negotiate on the basis of tenders and negotiated prices to buy 500 desks, then let the manufacturer or supplier worry about the storage. All ministries can draw on the purchase price we have negotiated, based on 500 desks. A given ministry may only need two. I do not mean that price is 100 per cent the same because they have to pay for the storage too.

Mr. Mancini: So you are paying twice then

Hon. Mr. Ashe: If the member wants to sit down and have a discussion on basic economics, he can let me know. Obviously, he has a very limited knowledge of the subject, based on that remark.

The specifications were also asked about by the member for Etobicoke. They are designed to achieve the best value for moneys expended and to encourage skilled competitive bidding. In other words, one does not want to draw up a set of specifications that would limit the majority of manufacturers from being able to tender. If we make them too narrow, we may only have one or two tenderers who are able to come forth. If we have standards that are generally acceptable within the marketplace, then we are going to have a significant number of people responding to the tender, more competitive bidding and better prices for the taxpayers.

Specifications are updated periodically as circumstances dictate, and there is a constant endeavour made to ensure that product selection is based on good quality and excellent serviceability life. In other words, to use a term that was used by others, the best bang for the buck, good value for the dollars expended.

The actual standards for office space are based on the classification principally of the staff and on the function being carried out, again with a certain degree of latitude in the drawing up of floor plans, for example. Basically, we know how many square feet should be allocated for this employee at this level, for a director, for an executive director, for a manager, etc. That is the basic criterion for drawing up floor plans for utilization when we are putting together an office layout.

Virtually all office space is constructed to our specifications or acquired through a lease-tender process. When we advertise for leased space, we

know what our needs are and it is up to the bidder to best fill our needs at the best possible price.

What are the considerations the Ministry of Government Services uses in allocating a contract, and is distance a factor in deciding who will receive a contract? The ministry maintains a very open—I think the only rational way—and competitive tender policy whereby the low legitimate tenderer receives the award. In other words, all things being equal, the person who meets the specs and has the lowest price is going to get that tender if he has anything behind him at all. If they have had a very negative record, obviously that is going to be considered too.

Tender requests for collective purchasing agreements generally call for the submission of prices based on delivery and installation within four geographical areas of the province. This is a factor used in the evaluation of tender submissions. In other words, it is not just looking to deliver to one place in the province, but in four geographical areas. The cost of getting something to the place where it will be utilized, getting it into the hands of whoever is going to use it, is obviously part of the cost of that product.

Mr. Eakins: What happens if one lives in eastern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is one of the four regions in Ontario, a very significant and important part of Ontario, I might add. That is the part of Ontario I happen to come from. Nobody belittles eastern Ontario. Obviously, election results recognize that two people do, but they know better when it comes to this side.

The member for Etobicoke also asked for the breakdown of advertising costs and objectives of advertising programs in the evaluation system. As I indicated in my opening remarks, it is not a significant number in our ministry, as he well knows. Our total advertising budget in each of the last two years was something less than \$1 million. To put that into a little more specifics with regard to the breakdown he asked for, in 1982-83 approximately 95 per cent of ministry advertising costs consisted of publicly advertised tenders. That was actually 76.9 per cent of our advertising dollars. Advertising and listing in telephone directories accounted for 11.8 per cent and advertising job vacancies was 5.5 per cent. There is no room for advocacy advertising in that kind of a budget.

Publicly advertised tender, which is really the big part when we tender in the process I have just described, was just under 77 per cent of our total expenditures.

8:30 p.m.

A question was asked on the use of unclassified staff in the ministry. The number is already in the briefing books that were provided to the critics. As I am sure the members are aware, as of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1984, we had on staff 265 unclassified people in the ministry. Unclassified staff are used for specific projects that are normally not recurring in nature. They are employed under individual contracts which set out the terms of employment and the duration of the contract. Normally, that is the duration of the project, and when there is a need for employees on an ongoing full year-round basis, then such needs would be met by classified staff, in other words, full-time civil servants.

I might also pass on to the member that we will be considering that particular piece of legislation for debate on second reading in the next few weeks. As he knows, late last week I introduced a bill to expand the availability of benefits to part-time workers and to regular seasonal workers, whom we have in this ministry but who are more predominant in other ministries.

I understand the debate on second reading on that will be taking place in about two weeks time. I am sure we will get into it in more detail at that time.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a supplementary here if the minister will permit?

Mr. Chairman: Will the minister permit a brief question?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Can he tie it in with this one? I am sure I can facilitate another one.

Mr. Chairman: If it relates to the minister's comments, please go ahead.

Mr. Philip: I think it will make it easier because I do not think the minister has answered my question. I may have missed it, but what I was trying to get at was how many people have a contract or a series of contracts? We have reports of people who are, in fact, what amounts to permanent staff.

It is just that they are in a kind of revolving door situation where they have one contract followed by another contract without any of the benefits of being full-time public servants. They have the anxiety that they will never know when they are going to go out that revolving door and not come back through it again. That is what I was asking. I appreciate the minister's answer, but I do not think it addresses that question.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I am not sure I can give the member the number specifically other than to say the unclassified numbers have gone up slightly

over the last two years. Let us not kid ourselves. This is partly in recognition of the freeze in the public service. Where we have needed people for specific projects, we have hired them on a temporary basis.

I do not think we have any great numbers of people falling into the category the member describes. I will try to get the specific numbers for him and I will get back to him, but it is not a big number in our ministry, as the member can see by the total numbers involved. It is somewhat less than 10 per cent of the total staff in the Ministry of Government Services.

As I mentioned, the big majority of these are on the basis of a specific time period or a particular program involvement. It is just not prudent even to approach—it would get turned down anyway in most cases—Management Board to increase our staff complement.

I am sure some of these people have probably been on a renewable contract, but I will get the member the specific numbers. I think one of the advantages coming forth in the legislation I mentioned a few moments ago, and we will be debating it on second reading in the next two weeks or so, is that although these people may still have some uncertainties, at least the temporary people will have available to them, the seasonal categories as well as part-time, the advantages of some of the benefits that were not available to them before.

Again, I want to stress that this is principally the other side of the coin. They are the people who are regular but are not regular in the sense of a full 37 1/2-hour, 37 1/4-hour or 40-hour week, but they are regular on a part-time basis or regular on a seasonal basis.

I may even have the answer here. Who knows?

Mr. Philip: Would it not be easier if the minister's staff just sat with him?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is not the answer, but it will be coming in a moment.

The last question I have noted here is: "Is consideration given in awarding contracts as to whether a company has good labour practices and is unionized?" The answer to that is what I went back to before. We actually go on the basis of an open tendering policy. We do not put restrictions on one way or the other. There is an equal opportunity for all to quote.

In our request for tenders, to protect those employed in the industry, contract documents require that the rates of wages contained in the fair wage schedule issued by the Ministry of Labour be the minimum standard paid. They can be higher, but the minimum standard is in our

request for tender calls. We do not say, "You must have a unionized shop or you must be nonunion." It is open, but with a minimum. We use the scale from the Ministry of Labour.

Mr. Philip: Does the minister ever catch employers who claim they are paying the wages and it turns out differently?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: None has come to my attention, but being realistic about the marketplace and about the number of contracts we enter into, I doubt if I can honestly say it has never happened. I am sure if and when it has happened and someone has brought forward a complaint, the situation has been rectified post-haste. In the less than a year I have been minister, no cases have come to my attention directly or indirectly. I cannot honestly say it has never happened because I expect it has.

Mr. Philip: How would the minister rectify it? Would he put them on a blacklist, so they did not get another contract or would he rescind the contract? After they have done the work, it would be hard to take it back. Is there a penalty built into the contract for a false statement?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: We presume when we enter into a contract that it is a bona fide contract on both sides and that honesty has been part of that contract. It is safe to say, again on the basis of being fair, if that situation came up, we would approach the contractor and sit down with him to see whether it is an honest mistake that he is willing to rectify by correcting it and paying any overdue or underpaid wages.

That is only part of our process. All the contractors who do work for us are constantly being evaluated on their performance. If they do not perform, they get on our lists saying they have been given a warning or called in and so on. That is for everything, not only labour practices, but also quality, meeting deadlines, being available if there are problems.

It is all part of our constant evaluation of the people who do business with the government on behalf of the taxpayers of Ontario. There is a monthly updated list, and there are many factors that can cause a contractor to be put on the warning list or the disqualified list. They can be disqualified from tendering for a year, for example, until they earn their way back. That is one of the considerations.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I think I should give the floor back to the members for other questions I am sure will be coming forward.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I thought for the sake of these estimates, since initially we decided

to go back and forth on the various items, we might for the next 54 minutes at least simply take the votes as a whole.

Mr. Chairman: Is that an agreement?

Mr. Philip: That way we will not be arguing over technicalities.

Mr. Chairman: That is agreed. We will proceed.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I have no problem with that.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I have no problem with it, but this is the first time I heard that was the way we were going to do it. The critics might take up all the time spent on the estimates and not allow any other member to enter the debate. I think there should be a cutoff period for the leadoff speakers because I can go on dialoguing—

Mr. Chairman: I am about to recognize the member for Windsor-Walkerville because he was the first on his feet. We are all agreed that we are dealing with all the items rather than seriatim.

8:40 p.m.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to be lengthy. I simply want to ask the minister what has happened to the recommendation or suggestion I made to his predecessor several years ago that he request Bell Canada to include in its telephone books a survival guide that is generally a sort of first-aid book? It is a suggestion that is used quite extensively in California where most people have a Bible at home and almost everybody has a telephone book.

I will read into the record the comments that I brought to the attention of the minister within the last several years. An article headed "Worth Copying" says, "Telephone directories in many major California cities contain an eight-page survival guide for emergency medical care, an insert directories throughout the country should copy."

The article suggests other jurisdictions or municipalities in California should follow up on what has been found to be a worthwhile and practical suggestion.

The guide offers information on the emergency treatment of heart attacks, poisoning, drug overdose, choking, drowning, electric shock and accidents. The guide was originated by a Dr. Donald Trunkey, a specialist in disaster care and chief of surgery in the San Francisco General Hospital.

"I worked on this guide for almost two years with a lot of experts," he recalls. "Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, which controls about

70 per cent of the phone directories in California provided the directory space.' Dr. Trunkey hopes telephone directories in the country will eventually carry a similar guide and that subscribers will be notified of the fact.

"The phone book," he explains, "is probably the second most common book in the American home. I guess the Bible is first. Both can serve as lifesavers."

In my estimation, it is a worthy suggestion by another jurisdiction, and if it is worthy and merits copying, I think we as legislators have a responsibility to bring a thing like this to the minister's attention.

If he does not adopt it, at least I hope he will have a certain number of inserts in some municipality as a pilot project to see whether Dr. Trunkey's suggestion, which is used in California, could be adopted in Ontario. That is the content of my suggestion to the minister and I would appreciate a reply.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The suggestion by the member for Windsor-Walkerville sounds practical, reasonable and ideal. Unless I am missing something, I am not sure what that has to do with the government of Ontario and the Ministry of Government Services. However, I will make the commitment tonight to pass on the honourable member's suggestion and my endorsement of it by way of a letter to the chairman and president or whoever the top people are in Bell Canada. I see no reason why they could not take that on as a public service addition to their telephone directories and provide it throughout the province.

Here in Ontario, unlike many of the states in the United States, we are served principally by one telephone company, Bell Canada. That is not exclusive, but it is a vast majority of the province. I am sure they could do it without any significant additional costs and probably get some good public relations.

I hope the member has already passed on his suggestion directly to Bell Canada. I make the commitment that I will pass it on personally by way of a letter to senior people in Bell Canada, with the support of the amount of business we do with them.

Beyond that, if the member has not done so already, he should pass on his suggestion to some of his colleagues in the federal House, particularly those who may have some involvement or dealings with the department that controls the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

If his federal colleagues felt strongly enough about it, they could make it a very strong

suggestion, if not even an insisted-upon component, of future Bell telephone directories when Bell Canada is in front of the CRTC for rate adjustments. That may be a dagger type of approach, but it may be needed when they start looking at the cost of pages for paper, print and so on.

I will be very pleased to pass that suggestion on. We used to have ongoing dialogue with the committee involving people from Bell Canada. It has not been overly active lately, but we will not wait for that. If and when it comes forward, we will take the opportunity; but in the meantime, I will commit it to writing to senior people at Bell Canada.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments of the minister. I have gone that route already and I have run up against deaf ears. The minister's predecessor knows all about this. With a change in administration in the ministry, I thought someone might listen and follow up, because the clout of the minister and the government of Ontario is far greater than that of a private member trying to deal with Bell Canada with, in my estimation, a substantially laudatory approach.

I said earlier that generally one has two books at home, a Bible and a telephone book. More than likely, there are more telephone books in homes than there are Bibles, unfortunately. If the minister would follow through with that, I would appreciate it very much.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of follow-up questions to the minister's response to my longer series of questions.

There is one thing I find hard to understand, and maybe the minister can clarify it for me. He has gone so far as to stipulate in a contract in the tendering process that employers must pay a fair wage—if not a union wage, at least the wage that is somehow rated by the government as being a fair market wage. Why would he not go further and demand that the corporations allowed to tender have a clean bill of health in respect of labour relations as far as not having convictions for having discriminated either by race, creed or sex is concerned?

Why would the minister not go even further and demand that any company tendering at least have some kind of affirmative action program in place? Surely that is one way of discouraging discrimination in the private sector. The Minister responsible for Womens' Issues (Mr. Welch) tries to take pride in this voluntary persuasion in the public sector, whether it works or not. At least with the tendering process, the Minister of

Government Services would have a club that might have some impact.

I also want to deal with some of the answers the minister has given on the tendering process. I would like to supply the minister with the letter I used as an example, which it turns out was not from a constituent. This is the kind of opinion a lot of people I talk to have about the tendering process in Ontario—I am not going to read the whole letter:

"I heard a rumour of this very luxurious furniture purchased for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to accommodate its staff on the 11th and 12th floors of 777 Bay Street in the Maclean Hunter College Park office complex. On March 19 I visited the building and discovered not only the 11th and 12th floors so furnished but also other floors selected at random. Am I therefore to assume that all 17 floors are so furnished?" Then she gives some examples.

8:50 p.m.

"What horrified me further was a telephone call to"—and she names a few people—"that gave me the following quotations on page 6 of a catalogue. Such a work station"—which she describes—"would cost approximately \$3,500, not including the chair; one pencil drawer, \$118; and one very small bookshelf, \$100, the small one situated above the girl's head." She uses the word "girl"; I would not use it, of course. If I were dealing with the subject, I would say "person."

"I am outraged that the government can spend and waste the taxpayers' money in such a fashion. I would like to know the total cost of the furniture purchased, how many people it serves, what happened to the old furniture and who had the authority to spend so much money. And does that person have any interest in the company Nightengales Interlock Inc.?"

She goes on to say some things that are not all that complimentary to the government, but I will not read them into the record. I will supply the minister with a copy of the letter. She said she did not mind his having a copy of the letter, including her name, but she would prefer that I did not read her name into the record.

On May 2, I put question 331 in Orders and Notices which has not been answered yet:

"Would the minister provide the House with the following information: (1) What percentage of the total locksmith work done for Metro Toronto Housing Authority has been awarded to one company, Action Locksmith Inc., over the past three fiscal years; (2) during the same

period, what is the total dollar value for all such locksmith work done; (3) what is the total amount paid to Action Locksmith Inc. for work done in these years; and (4) list each company awarded locksmith work in the last three fiscal years, along with the hourly labour charged by each?"

I would appreciate it if the ministry would see that I get an answer to that, because my sources tell me one company has most of the work for this. It is the public perception of certain businessmen that, "Sure, we were allowed to win tenders as long as they were the little ones, but the major amount of work has to go to one particular company." That perception may be wrong, but it would be useful to have the information on it.

I want to bring up one last issue. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) unfortunately had to leave for his riding this afternoon because there is an opening of a school, I believe, and he was going to represent the province at the opening.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, as the member points out, has a need for an office in Nipigon. Negotiations for a piece of land have taken this government over five years, and now it appears to be on the back burner, so to speak; a lower priority than it was five years ago.

The public servants, according to the member for Lake Nipigon, just should not be working in those kinds of conditions. Apparently they work in trailers, and in bad weather they go around putting pots on the floors to catch the rain. The mobiles are one mile east of Nipigon, on Highway 17.

The member would like some answers as to when a proper building will be erected, because he feels it is very unfair that public servants have to work in that kind of work environment.

I will leave this with the minister, and I thank him for his earlier replies to a number of questions I asked.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, the member again was asking about our tendering process and why we do not include specific indications of forfeiture of rights, if you will, or a nonability to tender unless there is an affirmative action program or a statement, I guess, of no discrimination. I do not know how, frankly, you do that.

I think the system we employ recognizes, as I indicated before, all kinds of items that, in our view, in the long run determine whether this is a good contractor, a reasonably good contractor, a fair contractor, a poor contractor or one we just cannot rely on at all. Believe it or not, we have

that kind of perspective and perception and quantification of what they do.

But I personally would think it not a very positive approach to get to the point of saying in a contract that only people who agree to employ 20 per cent, or whatever the number is, of non-English-speaking Canadians can or cannot apply, or that if they do not have at least a certain percentage of female content, they can or cannot apply. To me, that is discrimination to the worst degree; and again, the private sector is going to determine the fairness and equity of all these, there is no doubt.

I think my colleague the Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues would take exception to women's affairs being made part of the tendering process—I know he would. I think we as a government, as a country and as a province are making progress. It may seem slow at first getting this point across by gentle persuasion, affirmative publicity, seminars and so on; but it is happening. Except in the very extreme case, I think that is the route to go.

At some time in the future I am sure this may very well be part of a consideration somewhere down the line if you have someone who has a practice that is completely remote from what is an acceptable way of doing business in the marketplace, as we do in our qualification determinations now; that could be there and could be a reason for disqualification, but I do not think it is now.

I do not think our tendering processes could be fairer. I would go so far as to say there probably is not an institution or a government in North America, let alone in Canada, that is recognized to be fairer than we are in our tendering methods. Nothing is perceived by everyone to be 100 per cent pure; but if there is anything close to purity in the tendering system and the tendering practices of this government, I think we have it. Everything is virtually on the up and up, out front and publicly advertised in the public tender procedures, and the tenders are opened in public.

In some small individual cases where there is a specific service that is limited in its availability, a ministry can and does get in a rut. They have got a guy who is doing a little job on a regular basis satisfactorily—

Mr. Eakins: What about the Provincial Auditor's report? Did he agree with the minister on that?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Sure he did. The honourable member should go back and read the report again. What the auditor says is that nobody is 100

per cent perfect; but when you are pretty close to it, that is a pretty good step in the right direction.

The member opposite should look up at his good friends in Ottawa and compare their practice with ours. We are so lily-white pure that we will all be saints in heaven when they are still climbing out of the basement, believe me.

Mr. Eakins: We were elected at Queen's Park, not at Ottawa.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The minister has the floor.

Mr. Philip: At least the public accounts committee in Ottawa is nonpartisan. Some of the worst attacks I saw on the government were made by Liberal back-benchers. You would never see that here.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Well, I would not bet on that.

Mr. Philip: You would see it by the Liberal back-benchers here, but not by the government back-benchers.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: In any event, to get back to the member's point; as I mentioned, I am sure there is the odd little situation where somebody is doing a small regular job in a satisfactory way at what appears to be a good price, and I would presume that some office, some district or some ministry could get in a rut and maybe not retender it as regularly as it is supposed to. I guess there is a bit of human nature involved in that as well.

9 p.m.

However, our tendering practices are very specific. The criterion we go by, our Manual of Administration, which is further classified to the Ministry of Government Services, is very specific on our dos and don'ts; and that is followed virtually all the time.

I would like to read three paragraphs from our tendering practices. I will not read it all because it is rather lengthy, but I think this will give members the flavour of what I am trying to say.

"Inherent in the responsibility for providing these services is the necessity to ensure a fair competition, economy and the promotion of Canadian industry in the awarding of government contracts. This is generally accomplished through the tendering process and by extending preferences up to 10 per cent on the Canadian content of goods and services.

"The Ministry of Government Services operates a central public tenders office to ensure tendering processes are fair, uniform and efficient. The public tenders office arranges for the tender call, appropriate advertising, receives sealed tenders up to the established tender

closing time, opens the tenders in public under conditions of close scrutiny and security.

"The validity of tenders is carefully assessed in relation to the basic requirements and all tenders are evaluated by senior ministry officials. Selection is made on the basis of the lowest acceptable and responsible tender. Where a bid bond is required with a tender, only those tenders that are accompanied by a valid bid bond will be acceptable. The central public tenders office is also utilized by other ministries and agencies wishing to use the facility."

As I say, there is more, but I think that will give members the flavour of the very demanding criteria we set for our tendering practices.

Mr. Philip: The minister's assurance is that he is not guilty of the sins the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) said other cabinet ministers are guilty of, as he is.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I cannot answer for my colleagues, but I plead not guilty, that is for sure. No problems at all.

Mr. Philip: The minister has an honest face so we will take him at face value.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I am glad to hear that.

Getting back to the specific question relating to the space in College Park, and I think that is the one the member was referring to, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has two floors. They are the senior executive floors for the minister, the deputy minister, probably the assistant deputy ministers and so on.

As I indicated before, there is no doubt that in terms of size, availability and quality of furniture, the strata are higher than in other levels on the pyramid. I suppose that is the way it is, the way it will always be and probably the way it should be.

With regard to that specific ministry, I am told it moved about two thirds of the furniture from its old locations to the new location at College Park. They were in a multitude of locations, as the honourable member is well aware. Initially, only about one third was new furniture, unless they have made some drastic changes. They can do that within the ministry. Frankly, I can answer only as to what happened when we put them in there. If they have made drastic changes since, only my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) would be in a position to answer that.

I understand they did acquire some new furnishings, about one third. About two thirds were moved. They would have gone by the criteria established and, generally speaking, would have bought based on our master list of

suppliers. They would have drawn on the blanket orders we have for the various qualities of furniture along the line. I am sure there was the odd exception, but I presume very few exceptions.

To a novice looking at a work place today, compared to a work place in an older office or a number of years ago, it may seem elaborate. Traditionally, we used to think of an old metal desk, an old metal filing cabinet, perhaps a hand-pulled adding machine and a clackity-clack typewriter. The modern work station is far from that. In the new buildings, it is a modular work station built in a unit form with shelving and storage areas not only below and beside the worker in the traditional filing cabinet sense, but also above the worker. There is far better working light in the work area. There could very well be electronic equipment on the desk, a word processor, a computer or whatever.

Generally speaking, they are more costly to start with. There is no doubt about that at all. But we have found, and I can say this from personal experience in the Ministry of Revenue and its relocation to a new work place with new work stations, the employees respond to it in a very positive way.

Absenteeism generally declines. The work attitude improves greatly. The work output improves significantly. Absenteeism for sickness, etc., generally drops a considerable degree. To a large extent this is because of the new, modern environment and equipment, and because of the nice place to work and the nice environment to work in.

It is more costly in straight dollars and cents terms, there is no doubt about that, but the material is better. When one is talking about word processing equipment and the possibility of adding computers on a desk, that is a substantial weight and one wants a substantial piece of furniture.

The most important thing is that if one has a work station, and again I am talking about station in the context of top to bottom of the scale of jobs, if one has a nice place to work the output is very positive and there is a positive payback. That was definitely the case at the Ministry of Revenue. I am only presuming, because I do not know it from my personal knowledge, but I suspect the same thing has happened at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

As to the question—

Mr. Philip: May I ask just one question?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Let me finish this one because it is brief.

As to the question the member posed on behalf of his colleague the member for Lake Nipigon in relation to a working area up north, I am not specifically familiar with the one he is—here we are; we may have an answer to that right here.

This is a facility of the Ministry of Natural Resources. As the member knows, what we do is react to requests within budget allocation on behalf of the ministries and the policy secretariats. We do not set the priorities. They set the priorities. Each ministry has its own priorities. In turn, each ministry within a policy field has its priorities set within that field.

We can then react to them depending on the amount of money we have. There are certain facilities which are obviously higher priorities than others. I surmise the one referred to by the member for Lake Nipigon is one that has not yet reached near the top of the list on the priority of the ministry or the policy field. When it is, we will be happy to rectify the situation.

Does the member have another question?

Mr. Philip: On that item, perhaps the minister can at least supply them with the pans so they can collect the water in a hygienic way, and not have to pay for the pans themselves when the roof leaks.

I found interesting the analogy between the old style of office environment and the new style and its motivation and effect on personnel. I was wondering whether it was a conscious effort of this government to keep the north wing of the Legislative Building so close in appearance to the old style he described?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Not really; a conscious effort will be made over the next few years, depending on the availability of funds, to make all our work places better, including the north wing.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I am still waiting for the minister to reply to questions that were put on the Orders and Notices on March 23, 1984. I want to direct two questions to him. They are not hard to answer. I cannot understand why the ministry has not provided the members on this side of the House with answers to questions raised.

9:10 p.m.

The first question was number 12. "Would the Minister of Government Services indicate the following: (1) the amount spent by the ministry for, (a) management consulting services, (b) technical consulting services, (c) communications services, (d) legal services, (e) research and development services, and (f) creative communications services, as defined by the Management

Board of Cabinet Manual of Administration, for the fiscal years 1978-1979 to 1982-1983 inclusive; (2) the number of contracts involved in each of the categories and for each fiscal year as outlined above; (3) for each of these contracts, name the individual, individuals, companies or firms awarded the contracts, and indicate whether or not the contracts were tendered?"

The second question is number 41. "Would the Minister of Government Services indicate the number of people who are employed by the ministry, by contract or otherwise, who are not classified as civil servants? Would the minister indicate the total cost incurred for these services for the fiscal years 1981-82 and 1982-83?" That was dated March 22, 1984.

I believe I have seven questions in all on the order paper. We were promised answers when the estimates of the different ministries came up. To this day we have not received the answers.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, it is too bad I have only 22 minutes. I am not quite sure there was ever a response that said all the questions would be answered. I think the suggestion in the answer tabled previously by the government was that there would be many opportunities on the part of the members, one of which would be through the estimates process.

To be fair, I did answer some of the questions in my initial statement and expanded on them, as a matter of fact. For example, I expanded on the advertising question a few minutes ago. I can give the member some numbers if he wants.

On question 12, if he can take shorthand—he had better write quickly or I will take all the rest of the time just reading out the answer: Management consulting services, 1978-79, \$176,000; 1979-80—

Mr. Haggerty: If the minister is going to read that document and if he is not going to give all the facts in it, I suggest he sends me a copy. As long as I have the information, I can ask questions later. All I want is the information.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I am prepared to read the figures out and put them on the record. The member can get them from Hansard later. It would be virtually impossible, without the expense of a great amount of staff time, to break down the numbers of contracts going back that number of years and to give him all the details evolving through them.

Not only does the government have a responsibility to the taxpayers, but the opposition also has a responsibility to the taxpayers. In terms of the number of questions and the magnitude of the work that would be involved in going literally

into the archives to get the detailed answers we are being asked for, in my view that would not be a prudent response on behalf of the taxpayers of this province.

We are only too happy to provide answers within reason. That does not include, in this case, the background on who did or did not get something which way, or how many contracts there were. Albeit, as I say, I have the actual dollar values involved, which in our ministry, in terms of management consulting services, are quite minimal. In technical consulting services they are very extensive, obviously, because we are hiring architects, engineers and so on all the time, as the member will see.

Let me put a few of these figures on the record. If there is one particular area that has more attraction to the member, we can possibly go into it. Management consulting services for the year 1978-79, \$176,000; for 1979-80, \$270,000; for 1980-81, \$448,000; for 1981-82, \$749,000; for 1982-83, \$1,069,000. Technical consulting services, an area where we do have significant involvement, for the year 1978-79, \$3,692,000; for 1979-80, \$4,293,000; for 1980-81, \$4,690,000; for 1981-82, \$4,349,000; for 1982-83, \$5,794,000.

Communications services are really quite insignificant in that sense in this ministry, and this does not even include the chargeback for services provided by the Ministry of the Attorney General. For 1978-79, \$168,000; for 1979-80, \$152,000; for 1980-81, \$267,000; for 1981-82, \$238,000; for 1982-83, \$154,000. Research and development services are also very insignificant amounts. For 1978-79, \$16,000; for 1979-80, \$33,000; for 1980-81, \$1,000; for 1981-82, \$2,000; for 1982-83, \$75,000.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I think the minister has not received the point I have been trying to drive home. I am going to use an example here.

We are talking about government accountability and there is no accountability at all in his estimates. He deals with numbers, but not with total numbers. For example, if he is dealing with staff, he gives the number in millions of dollars. He does not say how many. Year after year the financial report this ministry gives in the House for us to adopt, to say we concur in the estimates this year, is nothing but sheer nonsense. There is no accountability by his administration to the opposition members.

If the minister were a member of county council, or even of a township or municipal council, he would never be able to present a

report such as that and have it adopted by members of council. They would not accept it, because it is not detailed. The minister gives whole numbers. He does not tell us how many persons he has employed year after year. He can look at his 1984-85 construction program and say: "We are doing an excellent job. We are showing some accountability."

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order—

The Deputy Chairman: I am hearing a point of order. You will have to wait.

Mr. Haggerty: If we look at the different expenditures of the Ministry of Government Services on completed capital projects last year, we can see there is an overrun of about \$660,000 in the Ministry of the Attorney General, St. Catharines courthouse and registry office. The minister does not explain why he spent \$660,000 more of the taxpayers' money. The taxpayers are deeply concerned about government expenditures and government deficits.

The Deputy Chairman: The honourable member has made his point of order.

Mr. Haggerty: If the minister cannot come in here with a decent report and tell us what this is all about, it is just a waste of time. It is too bad there are only four hours for dealing with these estimates, because that lets the minister off the hook. He has been doing that for years. His estimates show no accountability whatsoever.

The Deputy Chairman: The member has made a point of order which I have accepted.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Can the minister not send his material, with all these figures, by mail after the event? It seems to me we have an opportunity here to discuss policy, not just to get statistical answers.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, first of all, please let me correct something I put on the record. The set of figures I indicated as being for communications services were, in fact, for legal services. We include communications services with creative and communications services. The ones that started "for 1978-79, \$168,000" were for legal services. I would like to correct the record in that regard.

I presume when the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) made reference to the Ministry of the Attorney General he was referring to the copy of the book I sent him this week on the construction program, etc. The way I read it—maybe I read a little differently; my glasses are relatively new but they may be already out of date—the estimated original project cost for the St. Catharines courthouse and registry office was

\$15,660,000 and the estimated final project cost was \$15,010,000. In my basic grade 3 arithmetic that means a saving of \$650,000 under budget, not an overexpenditure.

Mr. Haggerty: Perhaps I was looking at Ministry of Government Services, Kingston Macdonald-Cartier building. There is a difference of cost there.

9:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That one is very easy to explain. The original estimated project cost was for a completely different project. The project was changed considerably after the original estimate, both the size of the project and who was going to be accommodated in that building. It ended up being not only an Ontario health insurance plan building, as I am sure the member is aware, but also a facility for courtrooms and so on for the Ministry of the Attorney General. It went from being just an office building to being an office building and a court registry office. Therefore, it was not an overexpenditure in that sense of the word.

Mr. Haggerty: Is the minister slipping something else in the tender, without really calling new tenders?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: It has nothing to do with the calling of tenders. The actual tenders called were based on the drawings and the criteria that were established. The nature of the project was changed from the original estimate. There is no doubt about that. However, that has no bearing on the actual tender call per se, which was based on the specifications and tenders that were available at that time.

The Deputy Chairman: On a point of order, the member for London North.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry not to have been here for all of the minister's comments. However, it has been suggested it was an overwhelming problem in terms of staff and time to provide the detail for the questions which were asked by my colleague the member for Erie. Yet, as we go through this procedure this evening, the minister is able to stand and give that detail.

I would have to wonder if we are not getting a little bit of doubletalk here because if he has that information available, then why could it not have been provided to the member for Erie as he had wanted? How is the minister able to stand up and pass this on to us at this time? Why is it a problem to him and to other ministers to provide the detail my colleagues are asking for?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I guess the honourable member came in part-way through my explanation, because I know I specifically explained that.

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: I have to recognize a point of order from the member for Beaches-Woodbine.

Ms. Bryden: It seems to me when other members also wish to participate, this argument about figures should be settled by the minister sending the figures to the member concerned. They can then have a discussion about whether or not they are accurate. However, to take up the time of the committee on an argument about details and figures is not, I think, productive to this House.

The Deputy Chairman: Is that the minister's prerogative?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I appreciate what the member for Beaches-Woodbine is saying. The only thing I do want to explain further is that there was a whole series of questions of this nature. I said I had some of it, but getting into the details of contracts of five years ago, the nature of the tender, who tendered and the numbers of the contracts would take an awful lot of staff work.

I said I had the total dollar figures available, and this is what I put on the record. Just to finish one other question which is very easy to put on the record—

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I appreciate the minister's response, but I would like to ask him if the people sitting directly in front of him have that detail available. If they have not, then fine; it has to be available somewhere else. However, if these people who are assisting him in these estimates have it, why could it not have been made available to my colleague who asked the question?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I am reluctant to take any more time on this because I did explain all of this in some detail before the honourable member arrived—the differences between the two, the responsibility on behalf of the taxpayer by the government, the opposition, etc. It is all on the record. I would be pleased if he would read it. I will not take the time to repeat it. Then the member for Beaches-Woodbine can get on to her question because I know she has one.

However, I do want to put on the record the answer to question 41 about the unclassified civil servants. The number of unclassified staff as of

March 31, 1982, was 197; the number of unclassified staff as of March 31, 1983, was 217. The cost of unclassified staff for the 1981-1982 fiscal year was \$3.561 million; the cost of unclassified staff for the fiscal year 1982 was \$4.548 million.

Ms. Bryden: I almost did not get an opportunity to compliment the minister on some of the progress he appears to have made in improving the position of women in the ministry, but there has been substantial progress, as he reports.

We still feel there is great room for further progress. In particular, I have here the occupational distribution of women in the ministry. The 1982-83 report of the women crown employees' office points out that there is still a very low representation of women in some occupations.

For instance, only 0.9 per cent of the total employees in maintenance services are women. There must be lots of maintenance jobs women could do. I cannot understand that very low figure. In technical services, women have gone from 8.9 per cent of the total in 1981-82 to 8.2 per cent of the total now. So it looks like there is a big area for improvement there.

The other thing I noticed is that in the general section of the report, table 5-B on page 34 on the categories of the whole government service, it points out that women make up only 12.6 per cent of the cleaning, caretaking and security category. It seems to me they are gravely underrepresented in that area. There must be lots of jobs there that women could be doing. In draft design and estimating, women still represent only 12.8 per cent and in engineering only 4.1 per cent. I realize not as many women have graduated in those courses in the past, but the number is increasing. I hope the minister will look into those.

I believe security service comes under the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor), but what about the guards at the front door?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The Solicitor General.

Ms. Bryden: I do not mean the security guards. I mean the guards there for the tourists to photograph in the summer program. Is that under the Ministry of Government Services?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: No.

Ms. Bryden: I would hope we would see more women in that category. I think it was raised in these estimates by one of the other members, so that is what led me to think it was.

The minister mentioned that he could not see how one could require an affirmative action program as part of the terms of a tender or

contract. Apparently, he has not looked at the US practice in this field where there has been a provision under the equal opportunity law for a good many years that nobody gets a government contract of \$50,000 or more unless he has an affirmative action program.

It is not all that difficult to do. It is simply that before the company tendering can get the contract it must submit to the office of equal opportunity a program for affirmative action which will include, not quotas—that is not what affirmative action is—but a program to increase the employment of women in areas where women are underrepresented. The program will have timetables for doing that, it will have targets for doing it by a certain date and it will have goals for the kind of representation it is aiming at, depending on the number of women available in the marketplace and so on.

All the employer has to do is present a program that is acceptable to that office and is tailored to his own industry and then he is eligible to get the contract. I do not see why we could not do that in Ontario.

9:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: To go backwards to the last question first on equal opportunity, equal rights and affirmative action, I really think there is quite a little difference between the nature of our problem—and I acknowledge that it is still a problem, albeit I think it is being solved—and the origination in the United States and how it has handled it. The members should keep in mind the background of the problem in the US is much deeper than ours and really relates to the foundation of a different issue.

As I see it, the equal rights issue really was not a male-female issue but a black-white issue. Granted, as time has passed, the affirmative action aspect, as we refer to it, has come into it, but the actual criteria and guidelines were based more on colour than on sex. I do not think we are quite comparable yet.

Ms. Bryden: It is the same.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The member may think so. I do not. In many cases we have what have been known as traditional male jobs in certain industries. That is the area we are working on as a government through the office of the Deputy Premier and through the ministries of Education and Colleges and Universities, to make opportunities available to women in what were previously perceived to be male-only occupations, whether professional or nonprofessional, whether labourers or to whatever extreme. We are making progress, but that will take a while to

come through the system; which leads to the other statistics relative, for example, to maintenance.

Nearly all our maintenance is now done on contract. If the member were to go through our buildings during cleaning time, I suggest she would see a high percentage—and I do not know the percentages—of female workers. They do not show up in our statistics one way or another because that work is virtually all contracted out.

Those people we still have are usually those we are keeping on until retirement. They are usually tradespeople. That is why the percentage seems abnormally high. We may have—I will pick a number out of the air—30, and 29 of them happen to be males because they are people who have been in the traditional male roles and are being kept on until they retire. They are carpenters, sheet metal workers.

Ms. Bryden: How much saving has there been over the years with the contracting out? Does the government find the saving offered in the first year by the contractor may disappear after the ministry has disbanded the staff and is dependent on him?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: We have a very positive program. In my view, there are many jobs that can be done very successfully, very competitively and very economically, yet very well by the private sector. Over the years, if a job can be done by the outside, it has been moved over that way. It is a matter of economics, but it is also a matter of efficiency. It is working well; it is saving the government and in turn the taxpayers some money.

Ms. Bryden: Are we getting quality service?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: There is no decline in the service. The standards are set and have to be met.

Votes 601 to 606, inclusive, agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

REPORTS, STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (concluded)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motions for adoption of the recommendations contained in the 1982 and 1983 reports of the standing committee on public accounts.

The Deputy Speaker: When we adjourned, the member for St. Catharines had the floor.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, as a member of the public accounts committee for the last couple of years, I have found it a most interesting experience in that the public accounts committee has the potential to be the watchdog of the taxpayers' money on what has taken place in the past in government expenditures, the value obtained for those expenditures. What comes out of the deliberations and recommendations of the committee is probably the most important aspect of our work, because we are essentially dealing with the past tense.

In estimates we are supposedly dealing with what will take place in the future as to the expenditure for the year, although by the time we get around to some of the estimates, that is not the case. In the public accounts committee we are reviewing expenditures that have taken place in the past and are attempting to determine whether the taxpayers of this province have obtained value for the expenditure of that money.

The public accounts committee has the potential of being the most interesting and best committee of the Legislature because there is an opportunity to be relatively nonpartisan. I have noted from time to time—and this should be the case all the time—that there have been government members who have been equally hard on witnesses from the civil service and agencies of the government who have appeared before the committee, but all too often members on the governing side see themselves as the defence as far as the public service is concerned. They tend to use velvet gloves on those who are associated with the government and an iron fist on the opposition when the opposition attempts to bring forward legitimate complaints about the expenditure of the taxpayers' money.

I mentioned that it should be nonpartisan. My understanding—and I can be corrected on this—from talking to members of all parties is that at the federal level the public accounts committee tends to be more nonpartisan than it does at the provincial level. I do not sit in the federal House, I do not pretend to have an intimate knowledge of it and I did not make the trip with the rest of the committee to the federal public accounts committee, but I have gained the impression there is less partisanship on the part of the federal public accounts committee.

Naturally, being a larger operation and because the numbers are larger, there are probably more gold mines for the opposition to be found in various federal departments, crown agencies and so on than there would be at the provincial level

because our mandate is not as wide at the provincial level.

I think we have the potential to be nonpartisan. I have had flickers of hope that might be the case, but all too often when it comes down to the crunch the chief government whip sends in the appropriate people who will vote to defeat motions of the opposition to investigate matters of great public concern. That is unfortunate.

I have noted with interest that what happens is that when a government member appears to show some degree of independence, that member seems to disappear from the committee somewhere along the line. I think there are a number of people on that side who see as their mandate a responsibility to the taxpayers they represent. One sees that they are concerned about certain expenditures that have taken place and about certain misappropriations of funds. From time to time they speak out against that and sometimes take the radical action of voting with the opposition members in favour of an investigation and, heaven forbid, from time to time they might even initiate an investigation.

9:40 p.m.

If one were to look carefully at the makeup of the public accounts committee, one would find that those members' names seem to disappear, either through frustration when they recognize they are going to get too much pressure from the office of the Premier (Mr. Davis) or wherever, or they are removed from the committee by an edict from on high and the potential for good services on the part of those people is gone.

What we have in the public accounts committee very often are members who are prepared to protect the government and its agencies at every turn. I understand that. I see my friend the former vice-chairman, the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyon), who assumes one of those roles. I like the member for Lakeshore; I think he makes an interesting contribution, and we have some excellent exchanges in there. But I see his job as being to protect the government. From time to time he asks some pretty good questions of some of the witnesses. I am not overly critical of him, because I think it is the system that prevents many people on the government side from being as independent as they might like to be, from having that sharp pencil to take out and evaluate the programs of the government.

I find it unfortunate that the one committee of the Legislature where I see the potential for a good deal of nonpartisanship does not have nonpartisanship. I do not want to be so sanctimonious or condescending as to suggest that

there is not a partisan motivation from time to time on the part of the opposition. We are all partisan politicians in his House and in committees; I recognize that and I am prepared to admit it. But there are many occasions when I think it would be to the advantage of the government and the members of the government party to solve some of these problems before they become mammoth; in other words, to nip the problems in the bud.

Sometimes that happens. Sometimes when the committee is particularly hard on one ministry or one agency, we see some improvement. I think the committee is quite quick to express a favourable opinion of the manager of that particular department or ministry when there is an improvement. That is when we see the deliberations and actions of the committee bear fruit. When they do not bear fruit is when the minister, the deputy minister or some other government official comes in and thumbs his or her nose at the committee.

The best example of that was Mr. John Laschinger. I can remember a contract that was let at Ontario Place. I think he was the Assistant Deputy Minister of Tourism and Recreation at that time. The committee chastised him, and I think even some members of the government party had some questions about the procedures he followed in letting a contract without tenders because of the usual excuses—there was not time; it seemed appropriate; this was the only company that could do it—the same old answers we always get.

I thought the members of the committee made a good case for saying that he should have tendered; that he had the time and the excuses provided were simply not adequate. He was asked by the members of the committee, "Sir, if you had it to do over again, would you not have done it differently?" I thought the thumbing of the nose at the committee was when Mr. Laschinger simply said, "No, I would not have."

I thought the evidence was pretty clear. In some cases it is not always that clear. In some cases the opposition does not make a full and valid case, try as we might. The members of the committee do not often make it, particularly the members of the opposition. I thought we did make that case in Mr. Laschinger's situation, and yet he simply said, "I would do the same thing again."

I thought there was no progress there; I consider that to be a somewhat arrogant statement, and I do not think it bodes well for good government in Ontario. Good government

should be the goal of members of the government party, the Progressive Conservative Party, as well as of those of us in the opposition.

We do have an advantage in our committee that is not available to all others. The member for Lakeshore is the only other regular member of the public accounts committee who is here, and I think he would agree with me that one of the conferences that is particularly useful is the conference of chairmen of public accounts committees in various jurisdictions in Canada to compare notes and see what is working well and what is not.

Sometimes I think some of the junkets that people embark upon in various levels of government are not always that useful, but I thought our excursion to Washington to look at the General Accounting Office was particularly eye-opening, to see the powers they had and to listen to the adjectives used to describe them by those who were subject to their initiatives.

We have an advantage in Ontario in that we can initiate our own investigations. We do not simply have to work on the basis of the Provincial Auditor's report, which is always an interesting report that comes out with the Christmas cards and seems to get buried somewhere.

When the federal Auditor General's report comes out, there is all kinds of publicity about it. The news media seem to take great interest for weeks upon weeks, and the public is horrified at what happens. The same things come out, although we are talking about smaller numbers on a smaller scale, in the Provincial Auditor's report, but all of us are busy doing our Christmas cards at that time and somehow this government once again escapes unscathed by members of the opposition and others who have a responsibility to look at these things in great detail. That is an opposition lament I will just have to tolerate, because I do not see any change coming at the present time.

We have an advantage in the Legislature of Ontario, and specifically in the public accounts committee; that is our right to initiate investigations of our own. If we see an existing problem of a difficult nature where the government or one of its agencies may deserve criticism, we can give notice of motion in a committee and have the notice of motion presented to be debated in a subsequent week.

We can make a decision as to whether we will call certain people before the committee, be it the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell), who will send along his underlings when it is embarrassing, and if it is not embarrassing will

appear himself to accept the accolades of the committee, or be it some other official.

That is an advantage we have in our committee. I know members of the government party sometimes consider it a nuisance to occupy the time of the committee with these special notices of motion, but I feel they are a safety valve for members of the committee and they serve a useful purpose with regard to elevating these issues to public attention. It is necessary to do that.

I like that aspect of our public accounts committee. I also like the fact that we have the ability and right to direct the Provincial Auditor to undertake certain investigations. Where this breaks down is when the members of the government party on the committee act as the blocking team. I am sure there are many football teams in Canada and the United States who would love to have some of the members of the governing party in this province in the front line, not opening up the holes but preventing the opposition from getting through the line. Because of their numbers, they are able to do so on many occasions.

Mr. Wildman: Just call him Dick Butkus.

Mr. Bradley: That is an appropriate name invoked by my friend the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), who sits on the public accounts committee and experiences many of the frustrations I do.

As I say, we do have that right to initiate our investigations. Would that we had a sufficient number of independent-minded members of the government party so we could have more of those investigations come to fruition, either on the part of the Provincial Auditor or on the part of the committee itself.

The Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. McCague) has a special responsibility that public accounts committee members understand. I am pleased to see he is here tonight to hear some of the words of wisdom from the opposition, if he considers them to be words of wisdom.

I found it rather interesting—is it \$292,000 he is going to spend on a study by a consulting firm, Price Waterhouse, to determine what he should be doing? Was I close enough?

Hon. Mr. McCague: You are \$2,000 out.

Mr. Bradley: I am glad to hear I am only \$2,000 out tonight. We know it is nearly \$300,000 then. I will put it that way for the minister's edification. It is to be spent to tell him how he is doing his job. I would have assumed that having had the job for some time and having

had a system established over there, the minister would be aware of how to do his job and would not require an almost-\$300,000 study by a consulting firm to tell him what he should be doing or how the government should be managed. Looking at the past record, I can understand why that is so.

9:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Is that sort of like paying Donald Macdonald \$800 a day?

Mr. Bradley: That is interesting. I am glad the Minister of Agriculture and Food raises that issue. The news media nationally and my local newspaper, the St. Catharines Standard, love to talk about \$800 a day for the chairman of the federal commission looking into the economy. The commission includes Jean Wadds, a well-known Progressive Conservative, who to my knowledge has not returned her paycheque from this, and others who were co-opted into this particular commission. I have heard that mentioned many times.

If the Minister of Agriculture and Food were to attend the deliberations of the public accounts committee of Ontario, he would understand that we have had people being paid \$1,300 a day, well in excess of \$800 a day. But he will not read that in an editorial in the St. Catharines Standard, because that editor is busy bashing the feds six days a week and there is not a seventh day.

The other writers in the newspaper are more progressive and fair in their viewpoint, but there is one editor who particularly dislikes the federal government. He has little time to note when \$700-plus is spent on a chair for the comfort of one person or another or when someone is being paid in excess of \$800 a day.

I am glad the Minister of Agriculture and Food raised that matter so I could inform him of that.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Does the member consider that a response?

Mr. Bradley: It certainly is an adequate response.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Did the member say "inadequate"?

Mr. Bradley: I said "adequate." When I can up the minister by \$500 a day in an example, that is adequate. I think even the Speaker would agree with that were he in a position to nod acquiescently and not be as completely neutral as he is.

However, I find it interesting that the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet is about to embark upon a study, through Price

Waterhouse Associates, to find out how he should be doing his job.

I think Ontario has a good Manual of Administration. I like to be positive in some of the comments I make. But it is not any good having a great Manual of Administration if the government does not follow that manual.

If I were to say to people in other jurisdictions, "If you want to see a well-developed and good Manual of Administration, come to Ontario and look at ours"—I think all of us can be proud of that—I would be happy to say that, except the government does not follow the Manual of Administration.

If some of the cabinet ministers who have been the worst sinners in this regard followed the Manual of Administration, we in the opposition, and members of the public accounts committee, would be able to terminate our deliberations each day when the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) wanted them terminated instead of having them drag on.

The government gives those of us who are members of the public accounts committee the ammunition by not following the Manual of Administration on many occasions.

One of the most flagrant abuses of public moneys we have seen is the expenditures on government advertising. I have heard bandied about that there was a 17 per cent increase this year on one of the figures. I always find it amusing when the Premier and some of his ministers use very low figures to describe government advertising. Yet if one looks at pages 116 and 117 of the Provincial Auditor's report, where he looks at codes 411 and 412, one finds that in 1982 the government spent a total of \$40 million on advertising. In 1983, it spent \$49.9 million on advertising.

Much of that advertising is designed to pat the government on the back. We had "Happy Hospital Day" when the Minister of Agriculture and Food, who was then Minister of Health, had a "Happy Hospital Day" ad in the paper. It was courtesy of the then Minister of Health. This might well have advanced his leadership ambitions to a certain extent. It might well have reflected favourably upon the government. But I am sure the minister could have conveyed the message to the public with a press release saying how much his ministry was providing and what a great job he felt his ministry was doing.

To take taxpayers' funds to come forward with a self-congratulatory message, in my view, is wrong. It is deserving of criticism. We in the opposition will continue to raise those items. Not

all the advertising done by government is useless or self-congratulatory; some of it is useful. I do not think anybody in opposition has ever said, "Cut out all government ads."

Some of the ads are useful. For instance, to go back to the Ministry of Health, I thought when it was talking about government requirements for inoculation under the new legislation, it was good to let the people know what the law was and why it was required. That is good, hard information and I do not think it reflects either badly or well on the government. It is the kind of information people need about government programs.

On the other hand, we get "Happy Hospital Day" or, as I stood up and waved in the House the other day, a self-congratulatory message about some funds provided to the Shaver Hospital, which was disguised as an ad complimenting those who had done so well in raising funds for it. Once again, that could have been said through a press release or through a statement. One was made, I think, by the parliamentary assistant, the member for Carleton (Mr. Mitchell). I think it could have been done that way. Instead, we have one third of a page and a large amount of money spent by the provincial government to congratulate itself and to let the people know it contributed \$200,000 to this project.

That is a wrongful use of government funds; it is self-congratulatory advertising with the taxpayers' money. If the local Progressive Conservative Association or the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party wants to take out an ad saying that is great stuff, it should do so. I have no objection to that, but I do object when the taxpayers' money is used to congratulate the government on these things.

I have another ad on my desk. From time to time when I read the paper, I pull one out. I remember in the *Globe and Mail* a couple of years ago there was a special business section, and some \$19,000 worth of ads appeared in that one section. There were five ads put forward by various government ministries, only one of which was remotely useful with respect to hard information, in trying to explain what this government was doing and congratulating itself on doing it. The ad that was remotely useful was from the Ministry of Labour.

I look at this ad from the *Globe and Mail* of April 27, 1984, with a nice picture of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope). The Minister of Agriculture and Food will be interested in this, because that minister is one of his rivals for the leadership. I read a column in

the Toronto Star that said he wanted to be the Premier of Ontario. It shows the Minister of Natural Resources, and it says, "In Ontario, having natural resources is a matter of economy." There is a nice little self-congratulatory message and a very attractive picture of the minister looking very premiereal.

Mr. McClellan: Actually, it is his twin brother.

Mr. Bradley: No doubt his twin brother was at some event in the riding while he was doing this.

An ad such as this must cost a couple of hundred dollars at least, and for what? Simply to congratulate the minister, to advance his leadership campaign and to make the government of Ontario look good.

That is the kind of advertising about which we in the public accounts committee have been critical. When we look at the 1982 report, one of the most flagrant examples of self-congratulatory advertising had to be: "Life is good, Ontario. Preserve it, conserve it." I remember the minister used to stand in the House and look very innocent and ask, "What political message could possibly be found in that?"

There are many such ads found, as the public accounts committee recognized during the 1981 election campaign. Just before the election campaign one could turn on the radio and, from eight o'clock to nine o'clock in the morning, probably hear at least half a dozen Ontario government ads, such as one saying what a great job it was doing cleaning up the environment.

10 p.m.

Remember the fellow paddling down the river? We saw how nice and clean the water was. The people who live along the Niagara River must have found that rather difficult humour to accept. It was humorous in a certain way but difficult to accept when they knew what was going into that river. Those whose lakes were suffering from acid rain must have found that somewhat amusing and were perhaps concerned when they found the Ministry of the Environment was advertising what clean waterways we have. I think all of us in the House want those to be clean waterways.

We had countless other examples of self-congratulatory advertisements which I think are an abuse of the taxpayers' money. At one time, I asked the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses to investigate the advertisements in the pre-election period to see if they were of a political nature and whether they should be counted as part of the money to be spent during

that part of an election campaign which is confined to the last 21 days and for which there is a limit. Unfortunately, I received a reply saying it was not within their mandate.

The other day I asked the government House leader, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), whether he was prepared to see that commission have a mandate to look at this advertising. Naturally, I expected his answer would be no. Of course, it was a negative answer. This is unfortunate because I think there should be some independent body. I think all of us recognize the commission as being an independent body to review government advertising to determine whether it is of a hard-information nature or simply self-congratulatory.

I want to emphasize last year's figure of \$58 million being spent on advertising under codes 411 and 412, and who knows how much else. As the Provincial Auditor said, it is difficult to determine just how much is being spent because some of it can be buried in other places.

If we were to add the Worker's Compensation Board, the Ontario Lottery Corp. and Ontario Hydro, we would likely be in excess of \$70 million in advertising. The newspapers must like this, as must the television and radio stations and other media. However, the taxpayers of Ontario may not be entirely pleased.

One of the things Ontario Hydro does very well is public relations. They must have public relations people falling over themselves to place Hydro in a rather favourable light with the people of Ontario. Any time the opposition has something negative to say, there is a letter to every newspaper in Ontario saying how wrong we are.

There are the advertisements and the talking furnace. We are told by officials it is a great thing; people want the talking furnace. I remember the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) said he wished the talking furnace would shut up. It is a popular thing. We all watch, with a good deal of interest—

Mr. Piché: Is the member talking about the government in Ottawa? What is he talking about? I lost him a half hour ago because of the way he is rambling on.

Mr. Wildman: That is the talking furnace.

Mr. Bradley: The talking furnace has entered the House. We have now found out that the talking furnace is really the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché). We always wondered whose voice that was, and it is a bilingual voice apparently. They have a talking furnace in French and English.

Of course, we would not want to show the talking furnace in French in any of the anglophone ridings or in Carleton during the by-election, but perhaps we would want to have it speak in Cochrane North where the people would appreciate the bilingual policy of Ontario.

In the riding of St. Catharines, I do not see the advertisements about services the government provides for francophones in Ontario. It is a funny thing. People in St. Catharines wonder what the government is doing in terms of French-language services. They say: "We see advertising for other things. We wonder what is happening for the francophone population in St. Catharines."

For some reason, those advertisements never appear in St. Catharines. They are as rare as they were during the Carleton by-election when we saw the pamphlets out there which said, "We will never institute any kind of bilingualism," and so on. They would go to Cochrane North and indicate the great services that are provided to the francophone population.

Mr. Piché: They are across the province.

Mr. Bradley: The advertisements are not across the province. I do not think any of that information has gone to the Grand Master of the Orange Lodge, unless of course I were to allow him to know what is going on in Ontario by saying, "Thought you would be interested in what is going on in the province," after I get the letter saying what the federal government is doing to provide bilingual services.

I usually like to inform the people what our provincial government is doing and how progressive we are in providing those services. If I do not do it, heaven forbid, they would never know what a great job the provincial government is doing in providing these services. I always like to be helpful and do the advertising at much less cost than would accrue to the government.

The Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet would be particularly interested in the tendering process. I have said on many occasions in this House and in the committee that if the public tendering process and the Manual of Administration of Ontario are followed, the people of Ontario will be provided with a safeguard against basically four things. I guess the worst we could have is corruption, so it is a safeguard against corruption when we have proper tendering and the Management Board guidelines are followed.

It is a protection against patronage, because if it is properly tendered and someone gets a contract and happens to be a friend of the

government in some way, at least the government can say, "Sure it was properly tendered," and that is fine.

Hon. Mr. McCague: The member is wrong on that one.

Mr. Bradley: Does the Chairman of Management Board mean it is not properly tendered? I am sure he has not been listening to me. I am going to go over it again because it is important that he understand what I am saying.

I am saying the public tendering system and the Manual of Administration are a protection against the following things:

1. They are a protection against corruption, because if those proper procedures are followed, one cannot charge the government with corruption.

2. They are a protection against patronage, because when there is proper tendering taking place or when there is a special exemption that has to go through Management Board of Cabinet and the Manual of Administration is followed, that is a protection against patronage.

3. There is protection against privilege of some kind, which is close to patronage, but privilege for one group, one person or one company, regardless of whether that person is affiliated with the government; perhaps he just happens to have a good deal of luck or expertise. It is a protection against privilege.

4. There is a protection against inefficiency, because if one has the lowest tender and has followed the Manual of Administration, it is pretty certain the taxpayers of Ontario are getting the best possible deal.

That is why it is so important we follow both the public tendering system and the Manual of Administration. When the ministers do that, no problem can exist.

The opposition cannot make a case. The government does have a case for saying it is doing a proper job of managing when the manual and the tendering process are adhered to. The problem occurs when they are not followed.

We have seen numerous examples, more than there should be, of people who have circumvented the Management Board of Cabinet and the excellent Manual of Administration and who have not followed proper tendering practices when that should have happened. Some of the best examples were the Alan Gordon affair, where the former Minister of Government Services sounded a warning bell to the Ontario government and perhaps to the higher-ups in the government that proper practices were not being followed.

I thought at that time it would have been nice to have the Management Board of Cabinet sit on those people. The chairman has said, "I do not really have the authority to do these things and somehow they have to police themselves or the public accounts committee one year down the line has to look into it or something." We really could not find anyone who could apply a penalty to those people who did not follow those excellent guidelines.

I think there should have been. The Chairman of Management of Cabinet has to be an ogre. He has to be disliked by his fellow ministers. It goes with the territory that he has to be that way.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I hardly ever talk to him, he is so miserable.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: If he jumps on these people when they do not follow his guidelines, he will be praised by the opposition. He will be praised by his own members regardless of what he does, but he will be praised by the opposition and the public at large when he does that.

The problem is he abdicated his responsibility. He simply said: "It is not mine. I will get out the basin. I will wash my hands of it all, and it is somebody else's responsibility." It should be the government's responsibility, but it wanted to pass it off to somebody else. So it is then up to the public accounts committee.

When we bring it up, the members opposite say: "Oh well, you are being partisan. You people do not know what is going on." That is what they say, but that is not the case.

By the way, I went over the Burlington Bay Skyway again, and they had it down to one lane today—the people in Mississauga would not worry about that—doing routine maintenance and no signs up at Grimsby or somewhere to tell me I should go through Burlington, so I had to sit and fume on the bridge, having a hot question for the House. I am certain the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) has a plot. He must have me timed when I am leaving St. Catharines.

Hon. Mr. Snow: We tell the Tories.

Mr. Bradley: I am digressing a bit, but members will allow me to.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Did you not see that sign saying, "All Tories go by Burlington"?

Mr. Bradley: The minister was doing quite well for a while in not blocking up the highways of Ontario, but I must say he is back into his old tricks again. He has tried some improvements.

By the way, let me compliment this minister tonight. When we write him a letter, we usually get an answer fairly soon and it is a pretty good answer; so Mr. Gilbert does a good job, or the minister, one of the two, whoever happens to answer those letters. Usually his answers are relatively nonpartisan and I want to compliment him on that. I wish some of the other ministers would do the same. That has nothing to do with this report, but I wanted to put it on the record. I like the way he answers his letters promptly and relatively nonpartisanly.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I think we should adjourn. I think you should adjourn the debate.

Mr. Bradley: I know the member has House duty tonight—

Hon. Mr. Snow: There is nothing more to contribute.

Mr. Bradley: —but I see he is at least wide awake and alert.

He would recognize perhaps as much as any member of the cabinet the importance of proper tendering and of following the Manual of Administration. Look as I might through all of the details of his ministry, I cannot find much that is of any great significance in the way of varying from the proper tendering system. In fact, he follows the proper tendering system, at least as far as I have been able to determine, at least in his roadways division. I compliment him on that as well. It is too bad some of it does not rub off on some of his colleagues in the cabinet.

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Bradley: Good. I need a rest.

Mr. Piché: Yes, you need a rest.

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I am not too sure of the approach of the member. Aside from putting the two Ontario Provincial Police security officers up there to sleep, I do not understand what he is trying to get at. He is moving from one situation to a second.

It is okay, you can wake up now.

I cannot understand what he is getting at. He is moving from one argument to another. I am here to listen, and I do not know what he means.

As far as I am concerned, as a member from the north, I know what he has done. He has affected the people of northern Ontario very drastically, as I mentioned earlier this afternoon, about the jet. Remember when he was on one of the vocal opponents of using a jet aircraft to bring Ontario close and bring air ambulance closer to the people of northern Ontario?

Right now I would like him to get to a point, so we can sit down and listen to him and maybe give

him some arguments? I apologize to the OPP officers.

The Deputy Speaker: The member is out of order.

Mr. Piché: Which one?

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Piché: I would argue that point, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Let us not argue it. The member for St. Catharines no doubt took notice of the member's comments.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, of course I would not speak nearly so disparaging of our security staff who are here tonight, both from the OPP and the regular security staff, because I would estimate they are probably more cognizant of what is going on in this House than the member for Cochrane North is on occasions, as he demonstrates through his point of order there.

One thing the committee did not discuss, and which is not in the report but perhaps should have been, was the jet. The Premier relented under pressure from the opposition and embarrassment throughout the province and traded his luxurious Challenger jet in for two water bombers which will help northern Ontario far more than a jet to fly the member for Cochrane North back to Moonbeam on a daily basis. The government has been able to spend money more productively on two water bombers that will do much more for the north than the jet would have done.

I am glad he raised that because his colleague the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) voted for my resolution that afternoon in the House, and surely he is as close as anyone to the needs of northern Ontario, anyone on the government side at least.

Let me deal with the dissenting opinion in the 1983 report because there was an opinion of the committee—

Hon. Mr. Snow: This is 1984.

Mr. Bradley: Unfortunately, in the public accounts committee we have to deal with something that is a year behind. This is not estimates; it is public accounts. I outlined that clearly early in the debate. I thought the minister would have been listening carefully in the backroom.

Hon. Mr. Snow: You are probably doing the 1971 estimates.

Mr. Bradley: Some things have not changed since then.

The dissenting opinion was signed by the member for St. Catharines, the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham), the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip), the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), a nonpartisan, independent, objective-minded group if I ever saw one.

We put forward a dissenting opinion because we thought when we tried to write the final report that there were some good things in it, but there were certain government members who, if ever we used a word which might be vaguely critical of any member in the government, insisted it be removed. Therefore, we felt compelled to put forward a dissenting report which I want to share with some of the members of the House who are still alert this evening.

It says: "The undersigned members of the committee note with alarm the complete disregard for the Manual of Administration by Mr. Alan Gordon, former Deputy Minister of Government Services. It would appear that Mr. Gordon contravened the Manual of Administration on at least two occasions and perhaps more. It would appear that Mr. Gordon disobeyed the wishes of his minister in the matter of contracts for Foster and Associates and in the Telepac matter. Further, the committee is unable to determine whether his minister was aware of the issuance of the aforementioned contracts."

What that boils down to and what the committee talked about was who is running the store. In my view, while the ministers must accept advice and be fairly reliant on the advice of the deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers and other government officials, ultimately the decision must be that of the minister herself or himself.

Hon. Mr. Snow: That is the way we run the shop.

Mr. Bradley: It is not the way. I say to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) I wish everyone ran the shop that way, because at least one minister distinctly had the feeling—he is no longer a minister. He was bounced from the cabinet by the Premier, heaven knows why. He was one minister who had a sharp pencil and who was prepared to challenge a deputy minister who wanted to circumvent the appropriate rules. I am referring, of course, to the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman).

One of the issues that arose in the public accounts committee was the whole issue of who is actually running the store. Is it the deputy minister, who is not elected, who is really not accountable to anybody other than maybe the

minister sometimes? That is really questionable on some occasions.

It seems he is accountable more to the deputy minister of the Premier who is—what is his official title?—secretary of the cabinet, Dr. Ed Stewart. Some feel those deputy ministers are really accountable to Mr. Stewart as opposed to the minister himself or herself. That is of concern to me because, whether the minister is a good minister or a bad minister, that minister is accountable to the public.

When I disagree with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell), for instance, if he ultimately accepts the responsibility for the decision or if he gets some advice and overrules his deputy minister, he is the guy who is on the firing line. He is the person who has to accept the responsibility. We saw cases, particularly the Alan Gordon case, where a deputy minister seemed to be hiding things from his minister or doing an end run around the minister.

10:20 p.m.

Further, in discussing the dissenting opinion of the public accounts committee members, we said: "There is apparently a complete absence of government mechanisms for ensuring deputy ministers enforce compliance with the Manual of Administration by their ministries. The concept of ministerial responsibility seems to have been seriously diminished in the 'Gordon-Wiseman affair.'

"Further, the Management Board of Cabinet does not carry out the functions of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the government's manual guidelines. It seems completely dependent on 'an honour system.' This affair shows that, in effect, no one in government takes responsibility for monitoring the level of compliance with the recent directive from the Premier that ministries adhere to the manual." I elaborated on that while the Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. McCague), was here but he seems to have washed his hands of it.

Nobody is really enforcing these guidelines. They are good guidelines in a good Manual of Administration but nobody is enforcing them. It is similar to having an excellent system of laws in this country where one must follow certain responsibilities and adhere to the letter of the law and then having nobody to enforce them. It is as though we had lovely traffic lights that operated well in a computer system. The mechanism was there but there was nobody to enforce it. So if anyone wanted to run through all the red lights, that was quite all right.

I think that is a fair analogy of what is happening in this government, one that characterizes itself as being great in terms of economic management. There is more myth to that in 1984 than there is truth.

The members of the public accounts committee endeavoured to have an investigation into the policies and practices involving the expenditure of public funds for government advertising. The basis of our concern, as we said in the dissenting report, was, first of all, that "value for money was not being realized." Second, "the level of expenditure has passed \$40 million in the last three years. At over \$5 per capita in Ontario, the amount being spent on a per capita basis is amongst the highest in Canada."

I will not go into further details on advertising. I have gone into good detail on that. The government stands condemned as far as I am concerned.

"It is apparent there is no genuine method of competition for the selection of advertising agencies." Certainly, some of those that are close to the government with regard to their political philosophy and their business with the Progressive Conservative Party have been quite successful in getting contracts.

"The agencies that receive the largest part of dollar expenditures are closely tied to the Progressive Conservative Party. The invitation to participate is nothing more than a sophisticated political shell game." Those are the conclusions of the independent members of the committee, the independent and objective members of the opposition.

"It is also unfortunately apparent there are serious deficiencies in administrative financial contracts over advertising and related production costs. A number of attempts to have this matter investigated have been thwarted by the Progressive Conservative committee majority." The government stands condemned in that regard through the points brought up by the opposition.

We looked at a number of other items that I thought were of interest. There has been a rectification in some of the problems, so the committee served a useful purpose.

When the property tax grants first came into effect to synchronize with the 1981 election, that program was announced with a good deal of fanfare. All of us experienced many problems in our constituency offices with the system that was set up. The public accounts committee was rather critical of what had existed. I think it is fair to say even the government members expressed great concern about the administrative end of it—not

necessarily of the program itself, but the administrative end of it. Through our criticism and the examples we provided, some improvements have been effected.

There are still problems and some of them mystify me. One of them is with regard to freedom of information. Mr. Speaker, you will find this interesting as a member of the Legislature. When I asked for a list of those buildings in the riding of St. Catharines that were not eligible for the property tax grant, the Ministry of Revenue would not provide that list to me. It would have been convenient.

For instance, the people from the Ina Grafton Gage Home phoned me up and said, "Are we eligible for the grants? We are filling out applications. We do not quite understand the guidelines. Could you tell us whether we are eligible?" Through my constituency office, I contacted the Ministry of Revenue and said, "Would it not be nice to have a list?"

I did not want a political list. I did not want to use it for partisan purposes or anything. It was strictly administrative so that when people phone, I can say, "Yes, you are eligible for the following reasons," or "No, you are not eligible for the following reasons," and the government has set out these criteria as to who is eligible and who is not. Instead I get, "No, you cannot have that list, because it changes," or some other excuse. This is a service that a member of the Legislature should be able to produce.

To go back to the report, we delved into the Ministry of Revenue as it related to the property tax grant, and I think we saw some improvements as a result of recommendations we had made. The deputy minister was very defensive to begin with and somewhat annoyed with the auditor's office over a number of criticisms that had been made; but ultimately, because of the work of the public accounts committee and because of the public exposure, limited as it might be, we had a rectification of the situation. That really speaks well of having a public accounts committee with as much responsibility as ours has.

I only wish we had more responsibility and jurisdiction over crown corporations. There is a blurry line there over crown corporations and particularly their subsidiaries. The member for London South (Mr. Walker), the Provincial Secretary for Justice, who was the subject of some discussion in the public accounts committee over matters that have been raised in the House—I do not want to get into those now—would be interested in this, because he was a person who, after Stuart Smith raised the item,

raised another item about agencies and so on and having them diminish or go out the door.

As one of the right-wing members of the cabinet, he would probably not want to see a proliferation of crown agencies and their subsidiaries, so he would be interested to know that the public accounts committee would like more power, or a definition of its power, to delve into the subsidiaries of the crown corporations and their activities. A lot of problems could arise down there, and they seem to be a little bit out of the reach of the Provincial Auditor and of members of the committee. We would have hoped that we could delve into those agencies a little more, because they are not subject to the kind of scrutiny that the ministries are, for instance, in the estimates or in the House, and they tend to be forgotten at times.

I have many more things I could talk about tonight with respect to this report, and I know all members would like me to go on at some length in discussing the individual items contained in here. I also know the members opposite, certainly the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), would agree with me that the amount of pressing government business of great importance before us would militate in favour of my terminating this debate and allowing us to get on to that important legislation and those important reports before us.

I say that facetiously, of course. To this point the debate that is taking place tonight is probably as important a debate as has taken place in this House this session, because the government has refused to bring forward, until the dying days of the session, legislation of great importance.

I suspect that as we get into the month of June and as the pressure is on for the recess of the House, we will see a lot of government bills appearing and each minister saying, "I must have this bill." I understand that this happens all the time.

Interjection.

Mr. Bradley: The member for London South tells me there may be an election coming up. I am looking forward to that. If the government were to call it at this time, we would point out to the people of Ontario how they were simply trying to exploit a situation where they felt they might have an advantage.

But I will be happy in the election, whenever it comes, to contest it on many of the items that are contained in the Provincial Auditor's report and the standing committee on public accounts reports of 1982 and 1983.

I have completed my remarks tonight. I appreciate the opportunity to share with members

of the House my views on these subjects, and I will terminate my remarks at this time.

Motions agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, just before the adjournment of the House, I would like to indicate a little change from the order of business that I gave earlier.

Tomorrow morning we will deal with second readings of Bill 36 and 37, but we will not deal with Bill 142, as I had previously announced. We will just deal with the other two bills tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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Friday, May 11, 1984

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, May 11, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

MEETING WITH ASSESSMENT COMMISSIONER

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. As you know, I am very much interested in assessment in this province. During the last few weeks, my staff tried to obtain a meeting with the commissioner of assessment in the region of York. In trying to get an appointment with the commissioner, we spoke with his staff and with the commissioner himself. At that time, the commissioner indicated he needed permission from the minister before he could meet with the public or with public representatives.

I do not believe it is necessary—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. With all due respect to the member, I have to advise him this is not a point of personal privilege. It really does not affect his personal rights as a member, according to what I have heard thus far. Perhaps it would be better to raise the matter in question period.

Mr. Epp: With all due respect, I believe it is a point of personal privilege. The public service of Ontario is supposed to be exactly that, public, and it is supposed to be accessible to members of the opposition as well as to members of the government. It should not be necessary for members to have to clear every meeting they want to have with public servants with the minister himself. I have not encountered this in the past, but the commissioner clearly indicated we needed to get permission from the minister before we could speak to him about the very important subject of assessment.

I want to get some clarification from you, Mr. Speaker, as to whether this should be followed and whether this is going to be a practice among all the ministries. As I indicated—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I have listened carefully. I did not want to enter into a debate about whether it was a point of personal privilege. I think the member has had ample opportunity to make his point. All members, including myself, have duly noted same. I

suggest question period will give him an excellent opportunity to pursue the matter further.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGEMENTS (UK) BILL

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), I have two statements to make, which will be statements leading up to the introduction of two pieces of legislation later this morning.

I will be introducing for first reading the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgements (UK) Act, 1984. This act will permit Ontario to come within the scope of a convention on the recognition and enforcement of judgements recently concluded between Canada and Britain.

The convention codifies the rules that the courts will apply in the recognition and enforcement of judgements. It also has the effect of neutralizing prejudice to Canadian interests resulting from a common market agreement. Under that agreement, Canadian residents and companies with assets in Britain may have those assets seized to satisfy court judgements from other European countries which previously could not be enforced in Britain. This result will be avoided by our implementing the Canada-United Kingdom convention, which is attached as a schedule to the bill I am tabling today.

The bill was drafted by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and recommended for enactment in every Canadian province. Nova Scotia introduced a similar bill during the last week of April 1984. This is a highly technical area of the law, but we are satisfied that implementing the convention is necessary to protect the interests of Ontario companies and individuals carrying on business in Europe.

TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION RECIPROCAL ACCESS BILL

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I shall be introducing for first reading the Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act. This act is part of Ontario's continuing program of measures concerning transboundary pollution. The act

aims to provide more effective access to the courts where pollution from one jurisdiction causes harm in another.

Mr. Renwick: That means an interchange of pollution.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The minister has the floor.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Currently, technical barriers prevent Canadians from suing for damage when the pollution comes from across a provincial or international border.

This act permits the extension of equal access to courts and tribunals for nonresidents affected by pollution. It does so on a reciprocal basis, granting rights only to residents of jurisdictions that give similar rights to Ontario residents. The act indirectly gives the people of Ontario new rights to sue outside Ontario if they are damaged by pollution coming from a reciprocating jurisdiction.

The act is significant in other ways. It has been recommended by both the American and Canadian Uniform Law Conferences and is the outcome of three years' collaboration between American and Canadian representatives. I believe this is the first time we in this House have joined in this sort of bilateral lawmaking.

Ontario is the first province in Canada to consider the legislation. We follow the states of Montana and New Jersey, which have already passed the bill.

INVITATION TO OPENING

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I waited until the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) came into the House—as he did, but he has left just momentarily—thinking he might be sending an invitation across to this member, but it has not happened.

This afternoon at the Centralia College of Agricultural Technology the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe) will be participating in the opening of a new agricultural engineering facility, which is in my riding and to which I did not receive an invitation.

I brought this to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Food about a week ago, and the minister indicated he would look into it immediately. I still do not have the invitation to attend this opening. I think this kind of discourtesy is inexcusable and unacceptable.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the member please take his seat for a moment.

Mr. Riddell: Frankly, it speaks to the integrity of the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member is out of order.

Mr. Riddell: It does nothing more than reflect the arrogant, pompous nature of this government.

The Deputy Speaker: It is not a point of personal privilege, with all due respect.

10:10 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege, and I will not succumb to the temptation to respond in kind: When the honourable member drew this matter to my attention, I pointed out to him that invitations for official openings are not handled by the client ministry, in this case my own, but rather by staff in the Ministry of Government Services.

I had my officials call officials in the Ministry of Government Services. They found that there had been an error and the member had not been issued an invitation. That was an error, and they indicated to us it would be corrected.

I also indicated to the member on the phone that certainly he would be and is, notwithstanding this morning, most welcome.

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of personal privilege either.

[Later]

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: At the outset of today's proceedings, the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) rose on a point of privilege regarding the opening today of the new agricultural building at Centralia College of Agricultural Technology. I want to report—

The Deputy Speaker: It really was not a point of privilege. Unless it had to do with something in question period, I would ask that we reserve those questions of privilege or responses to a so-called question of privilege until after question period.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: With respect, it is a question of privilege inasmuch as the honourable member made allegations of arrogance and pompousness and so forth.

I want to point out that following the telephone call the member made to me 10 days ago, an invitation was mailed and the invitation is in his constituency office, as I confirmed with his constituency assistant.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the minister take his seat? The comments the

minister refers to had to do with something that happened prior to question period.

Mr. Riddell: Did it get there this morning? Did you check that out?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

[Later]

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I questioned the integrity of the Minister of Agriculture and Food in an earlier point of privilege today. I now want to thank the minister for his intervention. The invitation did arrive at 10:30 this morning in my constituency office and was opened at that time. That was about the same time the minister phoned my constituency office.

I want to say I am very appreciative of such advance notice. I also want to congratulate the minister on the announcement just made by the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch). Becoming a married man just a few years ago and now being a grandparent is a feat not all of us can brag about.

ONTARIO PLACE PASSES

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of privilege concerning Ontario Place passes. You will be aware that all members have received a note from the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz). I will just read one sentence of it, which says, "It is my pleasure to enclose a complimentary pass to Ontario Place for the 1984 season."

I am wondering whether you are aware whether Fraser Kelly has had his pass restored.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of privilege under standing order 81(d) regarding written questions. More than six months ago I put in written questions 250 to 256. I resubmitted them on March 27 because they were not answered in the last session. As of April 13, it was indicated in Orders and Notices that I would be receiving an answer by May 4. It is May 11, I have not received an answer and I believe my privileges have been abrogated.

The Deputy Speaker: The member's comments are duly noted.

[Later]

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I rose before question period about written questions that had not been responded to for six months. I have now got a supposed response which says that because of the complicated nature of the questions, they are going to

try to get the answers for me by the time the estimates come up.

As far as I am concerned, there is nothing going on here but a coverup. I have asked questions about the misspending of money in the triministry project—and I believe they are trying to cover that up—and about the misallocation of money in that program.

I believe they are evading questions that are easily answered. They should have been able to pull them together in the evaluation of their initial project. This is nothing but a coverup by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) on the excuse that he is supposedly, at some point, going to give me the information. Six months is long enough for any minister to get basic financial answers to questions asked by any member on this side.

The Deputy Speaker: As the honourable member knows, the chair has no authority over answers that come either in question period or as written responses. The member has had an opportunity to express himself on that matter.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. The minister will recall that we have been having some discussions in this House about the antiquated course curricula and leadership by her ministry.

I am sure she has now had an opportunity to look at the 1970 curriculum, the most recent curriculum for elements of computer technology. Has she now discovered, I am sure to her chagrin, that this document is completely out of date? This is not a course on the history of computers but on the elements of computer technology.

Is she aware that it talks about wiring rooms with electric circuits and does not even mention the microchip, that it talks about programming with paper tape and punch cards, yet there is nothing about floppy discs? How can she go on and teach with this antiquated set of rules? When is she going to change it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely delighted the Leader of the Opposition has asked that question because he has been suggesting strongly that we are not keeping up with a review of guidelines. I should like to present him with the intermediate and senior divisions computer studies guidelines, issued in December 1983 in English and in March 1984 in French. I wonder if one of the pages would come

and deliver them to the Leader of the Opposition. They are brand new.

I may say that is typical of the criticism the honourable leader has been providing. His sentence regarding the remarks of the Science Council of Canada about our science guidelines is nowhere to be found in the science council report. What has happened is that we were in the midst of the senior science guideline review. We were about two years through it at the time the science council inquired of us whether we wanted to share the guidelines. We said we would be willing to share them, but the council decided it did not need them at that point.

Mr. Peterson: The reality of the science council's report is that those guidelines were not published in its report because the minister was too embarrassed to publish them; that is why. She should look at them. How can the minister justify the inattention to that and to science training in Ontario when she is so good and so thorough at so many other things?

For example, I point to these marvellous guidelines, up to date and current, on golf professionals—a training profile published in 1983. They are excellently prepared and talk about how one should represent oneself on a golf course, how one can manage a fleet of golf carts and how one can determine and promote the social aspects of the game of golf. It is thoughtfully and well done for a course such as that. Why then are so many other courses so far out of date? Where are her priorities?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It would be very pleasant if, for once, the honourable member understood that he is talking about apples and oranges, as usual. As a matter of fact, most of his thinking is in the state of a fruit salad rather than anything else. The guidelines he is talking about were developed by the college system for a program delivered at the colleges of applied arts and technology, not in the elementary-secondary system, which is the other area he keeps criticizing.

We are in the process of renewal of all guidelines for all courses of study for secondary schools and have been in that process now for more than two years. The member knows that has been going on. He is aware that the timetable with the details of those course guidelines is forthcoming. Some are ready now, some will be in September and some in December, including those related to technological studies, of which parts A and C will be ready by the end of this year.

That activity is ongoing within the Ministry of Education. Of course, we are doing curriculum guideline development within the colleges of applied arts and technology at the same time. We on this side of the House can chew and write at the same time, unlike the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, why has it taken the minister 15 to 20 years to develop curriculum guidelines for so many of these subjects? Why has it taken the secondary education review project report, the Renewal of Secondary Education report and the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions report to start her to work on these things, which have been out of date for so long?

Yesterday I attended a conference of guidance counsellors, who would certainly be in agreement with what those on this side of the House are saying, contrary to what the minister contends in the House.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, because he was a teacher, the honourable member should know that the course guidelines present the objectives and goals of the curriculum. Traditionally, course development has occurred primarily at the teacher level or at the school board level.

Under the rules of the educational program, that was happening at the secondary school level until the changes were introduced. Knowing we were in the process of revamping the secondary school educational system in Ontario, we began the renewal process some time ago. A part of that renewal process includes a program for constant renewal of secondary school guidelines and resource materials on a regular basis in the future.

JUNCTION TRIANGLE

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I see he is preparing himself now.

Mr. McClellan: The minister was supposed to resign if this was not cleaned up.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ruprecht: The \$200,000 study that was made public last night verifies what all of us really have known since 1979, namely, that exposure to chemical pollutants causes health problems.

The study further indicates that the children living in the Junction triangle area are six times more likely to suffer from health problems than are other children. I can go on and give the

minister the exact list, which he probably has on his desk right now.

In the light of these findings and of what has been known since 1979, what actions will the minister now undertake to ensure it is safe for children to live in the area without health problems?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the sincerity of the question being asked by the honourable member. First of all, if he is not aware of this, I want to advise him that the \$200,000 study to which he refers was paid for in part by the Ministry of the Environment with the specific purpose of attempting to identify problems in the Junction triangle.

The study and the report do not come as a surprise to us. As the member well knows, and I believe he is being co-operative on this, we are attempting to find out what the problems are so we can take some remedial action where necessary.

In specific response to the question, we are going to review the report in detail and analyse it in co-operation with the Ministry of Health and the medical officer of health for Metro Toronto. We are also going to continue with abatement programs.

It is unfair to say we have not done anything since 1979. We have done a number of things. In addition to forming a committee of voluntary citizens to give us input in the area, industry, my ministry and the Ministry of Health and various departments of Metro Toronto are all working towards identifying specific sources of chemical contamination and emissions to control them when possible and when identified.

I am concerned about the indication in the report that there are some minor skin and eye irritations in children that could result from chemical contamination, as the member has indicated. I am very pleased about certain parts of the report that indicate adults do not suffer from any health effects of an unusual nature above and beyond those found in any other area of the community. In addition, the report stated mothers in the area suffer far fewer miscarriages than they do in other areas.

There are some good parts in the report and there are some that cause me concern. I can assure the member we will take action on the latter areas of the report.

Mr. Ruprecht: The minister realizes this is a very serious problem. He has been told repeatedly of the situation that exists in the Junction triangle area. He made a promise to us

not too long ago that he would respond to some of the recommendations we made to the previous Minister of the Environment.

Despite that promise, we have not heard the minister telling us what he thought about the 24-hour monitoring system, the rooftop monitoring system or the 24-hour emergency line that should be turned into an emergency answering service. He has not given us answers to these questions.

What will the minister consider in his range of options? He has a whole range of options before him. One is to crack down under the Environmental Assessment Act; he can be much tougher. Another is to give us a promise that he will be tougher about the inspection of chemical spills and air emissions. As I told the minister two weeks ago, sometimes it takes two or three days before his ministry responds to the problems of Junction triangle area residents.

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Ruprecht: Would the minister consider assisting what may be the worst polluter in that area to relocate by giving it some financial assistance or some other assistance? Would the minister consider that within his range of options?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I have indicated previously that we will consider any and all proposals to improve the situation in the Junction triangle. Because there was originally an industrial area in place and a residential area was allowed to develop in close proximity to that industrial area as a result of what I consider to be improper planning, we will continue to have complications. I hope we can minimize any health impact with respect to any emissions or discharges from those industries.

We are doing many of the things the member is talking about. We have taken a great many actions that are specifically in line with the suggestions the member is making. We do monitor the air on a 24-hour basis in that area. We do have a very strong abatement, control and surveillance program in that area. We do respond quickly, other than in the one instance the member mentioned where there was a two-day delay as a result of illnesses on the part of two of my staff. Normally our response is virtually immediate.

I want to do what is possible and what is achievable with respect to the Junction triangle, but to suggest that at some early point we are going to have a pristine environment, I have to say it is just not going to happen; it is just not possible with the circumstances as we have them.

I can assure the member, and I want to say this as sincerely as I can, that we will take whatever steps are necessary. I am prepared to meet with him privately on that. I am prepared, within the next couple of weeks, to visit the area personally and to tour each and every industry in that area. I intend to do that as well.

Mr. Ruprecht: The minister will also realize that in the report, recommendation 1 says, "The department of public health of the city of Toronto should organize a comprehensive health promotion program for children." We want to know whether the minister is prepared to talk to his colleague the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) and get him directly involved in a program that will mitigate the problems these children are experiencing living in the Junction triangle area.

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Ruprecht: The minister further realizes that when we compare children in the control area around Main Street and the Danforth and those living in the Junction triangle area, some of the health problems of some 12 of the children living in that type of environment are identified as skin irritation, eye irritation, burning of the skin and vomiting. All those kinds of problems are related to the Junction triangle area.

Is the minister prepared to involve the Ministry of Health and his government in this project? Will the minister give us the assurance that he will act speedily in convincing that minister to produce the desired results?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I want to give the member the assurance that the Ministry of Health and my colleague are already involved in the Junction triangle. As my immediate predecessor in this portfolio, he is familiar with it and he is even more aware of it now as the Minister of Health.

I can assure the member that I will be discussing the findings of that report with my colleague as well as some alternative actions we might be able to take jointly between our ministries.

In addition to that, we will consult with the medical officer of health from the Metro Toronto area to determine what course of action may be appropriate in this particular circumstance.

I also want to respond, and the member did not raise this in his question, to the concerns that were raised with respect to further information on cancer-related incidents in that area. We will do that as well.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up with the Minister of the Environment with

respect to the report of Dr. Spitzer on the Junction triangle.

The minister will be aware of the major finding with respect to children. I am sure he shares the concern that there are children in the area who appear to be suffering in terms of the quality of their lives in comparison with other kids in the city of Toronto.

Specifically, a member of my staff phoned Mr. Singh, who is the manager of the industrial abatement office, with respect to the smells in the adjoining area, which happens to be in my riding, as the minister will know. These smells are a constant problem during the winter and the summer and the subject of many complaints from local residents.

Mr. Singh said he did not think much could be done about the smells in the area. He said they do not always have monitoring equipment available; he said they might have to call it back from out of town on an emergency basis. Second, he said they cannot always calibrate their instruments to pick up a specific chemical. Third, he said if they do find a particular chemical, it does not mean they can pinpoint the source.

Is that really the state of the art of the Ministry of the Environment's response when residents phone to complain with respect to noxious fumes and smells which are causing such concern in that whole area?

10:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I want to give the leader of the third party the assurance that we do try to respond to smells and odour complaints on an immediate basis to the extent that we can. In addition, let me assure him that I intend to intensify our surveillance of the area with what is really state of the art equipment, which is able to determine in many instances the source of the pollutant in question and to identify what that substance is in very direct terms.

The only assurance I can give the honourable member is that we will take whatever actions are possible, but we are using the best equipment, and I believe the response has been reasonably adequate in the past. If there are complaints, I ask only that he direct those to the Minister of the Environment so we can pursue them as quickly as possible; but we will respond to them as we have in the past.

Mr. Rae: I can only say to the minister that there is an enormous sense of frustration, not only from the residents in the Junction triangle area immediately but also from those in the area surrounding it, with respect to the response and the ability, once they have found that there is a

smell, to pinpoint what the source of the smell is and then to do something about it.

Specifically, how does the minister feel about the fact that the Glidden paint company was fined only \$2,000 for polluting the air on June 24, 1982? Does that level of fine not give the companies a licence to pollute in the area?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The question of fines is under review, as I reported to this House earlier. But I want the member for York South to be aware of the fact, as I am sure he is, that my ministry does not establish the level of fines; the courts determine what the level of fines is going to be. The extent of the fines that are determined by the existing regulations is in fact under review.

I agree with the member. Where a serious matter of contamination or environmental upset has occurred, I do not believe a \$2,000 fine is appropriate, and I am looking into that very matter. But the fact is that the very paint company the member mentioned has already taken measures to control some of the environmental upsets it has been responsible for in the area, along with a number of the other 20 or so companies in the Junction triangle. We have made some very substantial progress, but we still have some distance to go yet.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not agree with me that one of the problems with his ministry has been the fact that he and his predecessor, the present Minister of Health, have been unable to maintain an adequate level of funding to deal with the very serious question of monitoring and supervising the types of spills that have occurred not just from time to time but frequently in the Junction triangles of this province?

Does the minister not think the commitment of this government to maintaining a monitoring system and developing the type of equipment that is required by the ministry's field officers and supervisors to deal with these spills has not been there or has not been felt by the Treasurers in these past few years?

Can the minister commit to this House that he will ensure the level of funding for the Ministry of the Environment and for the preservation of the environment of this province will be supported by increased funding through the allocations of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) for this year and for the coming years to make sure that the future generations of Ontarians do not have to suffer because of the government's past inadequacies?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree with the honourable member that the level

of funding that has been provided to my ministry by the Treasury is inadequate. No member of my staff has indicated he is unable to respond to the kinds of concerns that have been communicated to us by way of complaint.

We do respond very quickly, other than in the isolated incident the member's colleague has brought to my attention. We are using the best equipment, the best-trained manpower and we do respond quickly.

I do not know what more the member can ask of the ministry than what we are doing at the present time. I intend to step that up to the extent I can, to intensify it. But I want to assure the member at this point that I cannot blame it on a lack of funding or inadequate support to my ministry on the part of the Treasurer.

Mr. Rae: What the minister is saying in the House is directly contrary in a sense to what Mr. Singh has said to members of my staff with respect to the amount of equipment that is available and the ability of the ministry to respond to those complaints when they are made.

What specifically is the minister going to do, apart from reviewing and thinking about it? The residents have been complaining for years. The antipollution committee in the area documented exactly the problems that have been described by Dr. Spitzer.

What specifically is the minister going to do, first of all, to increase the level of fines and to increase the enforcement? Second, what is he going to do to provide for the kind of inspection that has to be done to get at the source of these problems?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I seem to have had an improvement in my hearing over the past couple of minutes. I noticed the level of audio went up rather substantially.

I thought I had in part answered some of those questions. I indicated the matter of fines was under review. Perhaps I did not yell it loudly enough, but I will reiterate what I said before with respect to that. I indicated I would intensify the inspections in the area to make sure they were totally and completely appropriate, which I believe they are at present.

I would like to share with the leader of the third party the kind of response time that my staff now gives to any of the complaints he is talking about. What he does not know, and what I am going to inform him about this morning, is that each and every phone call is recorded, and our response time is also recorded. Those responses are more than adequate and more than satisfactory from my review of the situation.

I do not want to leave the impression that the leader of the third party is giving that we are doing nothing. We have taken some very substantive and very positive steps with respect to cleaning up the Junction triangle. I have admitted there is more to be done, and we intend to do that. But to suggest in any way, shape or form that we are not either concerned or taking action in the Junction triangle is simply incorrect.

Mr. Riddell: The minister should show his appreciation to the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht).

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I will take him on a tour, along with other members.

Mr. Rae: We will be glad to go on any tour the minister puts on.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for York South with a new question.

Mr. Rae: Let me say to the minister that it is not he who has to be satisfied by the response of the inspectors; it is the people living in the area who have to be satisfied. I will tell the minister that they simply are not satisfied and the level of frustration is very high.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member put his new question.

SOCIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE TAX

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my new question is for the Treasurer. How can the Treasurer justify the fact that the social services maintenance tax, the surtax imposed by his government, applies at \$111 of taxation, which means it applies to taxable income of \$12,000, whereas the other three provinces that impose a surtax—Manitoba, British Columbia and Saskatchewan—have that surtax kick in at far higher levels of income?

How can the Treasurer justify imposing a surtax on lower-income people when those other provinces that have chosen to go the surtax route have at least focused it on those who are the most able to pay?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, every province has to devise both its tax programs and its delivery programs to suit its own particular needs. I am very comfortable in saying one will find in Ontario the best array of services and programs for those very people that one will find anywhere in the country.

It is appropriate, therefore, that all our citizens pay a little bit more than others to fund those greatly improved services, almost all of which accrue to the very people the honourable member is talking about. I think it is fair.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer says he is very comfortable; that may be part of the problem. It is the lower-income people in this province who are not very comfortable.

I can show the Treasurer figures establishing that when the health premiums are included—they are established in only three provinces, and the Ontario rate is almost twice as high as that which is paid in British Columbia—low- and middle-income taxpayers in Ontario pay higher taxes. People in Ontario earning \$15,000 a year with a family of four pay higher and more taxes than those in any other province, including Quebec.

How can the Treasurer justify the fact that at a level of \$15,000, Ontario is the leader of the pack in terms of the imposition of taxes with \$1,432 tax payable, but when it comes to taxes paid by those making \$100,000, Ontario ranks number eight, exceeded only by the government's friends in British Columbia and Alberta? The Treasurer may be comfortable, but that may be part of the problem.

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What gives me a great deal of comfort is to know that those dollars are being used to provide a bigger array of tax credits and a bigger, better and broader range of services than is provided by any other government in the country. When one wants a better and more complete array of services, it is appropriate those have to be paid for.

I would agree with the leader of the third party there is an option. The option is to run a much higher deficit per capita. Two of the provinces he names are generally thought to have low deficits. In fact, they have among the highest deficits per capita in the country. That is short-term politics at the expense of taxpayers next year and the year after.

On balance, we have chosen to provide a better range of services for those very people than any province in the country and to run a lower deficit per capita for those very people than any government in the country. I believe the range of taxes in this province, taken together with credits and programs, leaves us in circumstances where we can say very properly that the less well-off in society are better treated in Ontario than in any other jurisdiction in the land.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, the minister's social services maintenance tax will bring in so many hundreds of millions of dollars this year. The group really caught in the crunch is the working poor, who are now receiving no premium assistance on the staggering Ontario health insurance plan premiums and many of whom are

not having them paid as a benefit by their employers.

Given those facts, does the Treasurer not think it is appropriate that we have the social services maintenance tax in place until the end of this year to increase sharply the level of assistance to the working poor, so they will not be crushed by the level of OHIP premiums?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, with respect, approximately two million of the 8.5 million people in Ontario are on OHIP premium assistance, either full or partial, and almost all of those are on full premium assistance. In other words, they are not paying OHIP premiums. In addition—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The fact is almost a quarter of our population pays no OHIP premiums, which is rather remarkable.

The second thing to keep in mind is that about—

Mr. Wrye: In seven other provinces, nobody pays premiums.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us be fair and honest, at least in this House. Everyone pays for health care. Other provinces may choose to do it through the personal income tax base, which gives rise to a higher personal income tax, which five, six or seven other provinces have; a higher corporate income tax, which several provinces have; or a higher retail sales tax, which a province such as Quebec has at nine per cent.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The honourable members want to hear the answer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us understand at least that the discussion is only over what mechanism we are going to use to pay for our health care system. The question is how we are going to allocate those tax loads. I have to believe that when two million out of 8.5 million people do not pay OHIP premiums, that is not an unreasonable place to look for assistance in the funding of our health care system.

With regard to the social services maintenance tax, the member has shared with all of us the extreme problems we have faced in our economy over the last few years. That tax has helped us to maintain our level of services. I would not want to complete this answer to the member without taking this opportunity to invite him to join me in congratulating the performance of the Ontario economy. Today Statistics Canada reports—

Mr. Foulds: You finally got your briefing notes.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, get nervous now.

Statscan reports a decline in the unemployment rate in Ontario. For April, the figures for Windsor show the unemployment rate there dropped by a full two percentage points. As we approach the budget, we find more people are employed in Ontario today than previously in our history.

Mr. Rae: I did not know one could make ministerial statements in the middle of an answer to a question, Mr. Speaker. I am intrigued by that ruling on your part.

If I could get back to the point the minister made, first of all I would simply rebut him by saying that on a per capita basis Ontario spends less on social services, education, health and welfare than any other province; the minister should know that. That is the cost of running the kind of economy he chooses to run, and that is the choice he makes.

I would ask him a specific question, if I could, since he made such a point of talking about the tax credits that he says do so much for people in this province. Is the Treasurer aware that the real value of tax credits that have been available to senior citizens since 1974 has dropped by 49 per cent, for the poor the value has dropped by 53 per cent and for the hard-hit middle-income taxpayer the value of his much-vaunted tax credits has dropped by 71 per cent?

His failure to index the credits and his failure to take into account the cost of living has devastated the real value of those credits for senior citizens, for poor people and for middle-income people. Can the Treasurer confirm those facts, and tell us what he is going to do about them?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member wants to hark back to 1974 as his base, then in order to be fair and to give an honest picture of the situation he would have to look at what new programs have been introduced since 1974 to help those same people.

Let us just look at the period since 1974: enriched property tax credits; retail sales tax credits. Let us look at the amount of new housing that has been introduced. New credits have been introduced since then. Let us look at the drug benefit plan.

Mr. Rae: You do not understand. You are not listening to the question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Do you want the answer? You do not want the answer, do you? You only want your press release; you do not want the answer.

Let us just look at the drug benefit plan introduced since 1974, which has grown, I guess, from \$6 million in the first year to \$250 million this year. Does the member think those same people he is standing up and saying are less well-off today have not benefited to the tune of \$250 million in the drug benefit plan alone since 1975?

How about the growth in the Ontario health insurance plan generally? How about the growth in health care since that date?

Mr. Rae: Does no other province have a drug benefit plan?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member wants to pick selectively one part of the—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The chair has permitted considerable latitude in the length of all of the questions and, indeed, in the answers. But honourable members must remember we have questions to come other than those of the leaders, and I think we should tighten up for the balance of question period.

Before proceeding, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation has the answer to a previously asked question.

CANADIAN CONTENT

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) raised a number of questions about a contract with Scientific Games. The member asked whether the Ontario Lottery Corp. contract with Scientific Games of Atlanta, Georgia, was properly tendered. The answer is a simple yes.

The Ontario Lottery Corp. invited seven companies that are leaders in the field of instant lottery ticket printing to submit proposals for its instant ticket printing contract. Three were Canadian companies: the British American Bank Note Co., Canadian Security Printers and Moore Corp. The remaining four were United States based: Scientific Games, Glendenning, Webcraft and Response Graphics.

Proposals were received from British American Bank Note, Scientific Games and a consortium of Canadian Security Printers; Moore Corp. and Response Graphics declined to bid. British American Bank Note indicated that ticket printing would be carried out in Quebec. Scientific Games and the consortium of Canadian Security Printers both indicated they would have to print the first game or two under the contract in the United States while state-of-the-art production equipment was installed at plants here in Ontario.

The member also questioned whether the contract was for \$800,000 or for \$4,279,000.

The answer is that Scientific Games indicated its tickets would be printed by a subsidiary of the Canadian-owned Southam corporation, namely Dittler Brothers in Atlanta, only while production facilities were being readied at Southam's Mississauga operation.

10:50 a.m.

I am pleased to tell members that Southam's Mississauga plant is now ready to print future instant tickets. As I said, the total amount of the contract is \$4.2 million, of which \$800,000 was applied to the purchase of tickets printed in the United States, with the remaining \$3.4 million going to Southam's Mississauga plant.

Mr. Rae: Is that in the riding of the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory)?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It could be. I would like to congratulate him.

Scientific Games is the largest supplier of instant lotteries in the world. Its experience and backup capabilities in game design, technology, marketing and service were also judged by the committee responsible for awarding the contract to be the best available. Because of the very judicious terms of the contract offered by the Ontario Lottery Corp., it has effectively introduced this technique and technology to Canada.

The member also asked whether the real reason for the contract going to Scientific Games was related to the fact that a Mr. Harold Freeman, a former member of the board of the Ontario Lottery Corp., was now a consultant with Scientific Games. The answer is an obvious no.

A special committee made up of the members of the Ontario Lottery Corp. board of directors and senior staff considered each of the proposals before recommending the awarding of the contract to Scientific Games. Mr. Freeman has not been a member of the board of the Ontario Lottery Corp. since 1981. Therefore, there is obviously no conflict.

The real reason for the decision to award the contract to Scientific Games was the superior security of the tickets. Under the terms of the proposal, each company submitted tickets to the Ontario Lottery Corp. for laboratory testing of security. These tickets were all tested by the official laboratory of the National Association of State Lotteries in the United States, and by the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto.

The Scientific Games tickets tested at the highest security level of four. British American Bank Note tickets tested at a low of 13. The Centre of Forensic Sciences judged Canadian-produced tickets to be not acceptable. Scientific

Games was the only company to offer a dual security system and we now have that system introduced in Ontario. Scientific Games is the largest supplier of instant lottery tickets.

In summary, in examining the details of the Ontario Lottery Corp. contract for the game Shoot to Score, I cannot help but conclude that perhaps the member for Welland-Thorold was also trying to shoot to score a few points. In doing so, he fell over his own hockey stick.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not realize that asking for submissions is not tendering? He invited submissions from only three companies in this nation. Did he ask Pollard Western Banknote Ltd.? Will he table in this House or answer when he rises what part of the application for tenders was it that Canadian companies, particularly Pollard Western Banknote Ltd., could not meet, or did the minister not even contact that company?

I have a letter from the company, dated April 11, 1984. Perhaps I may be permitted to read one short paragraph.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I note the question by the member. Would he be brief, having in mind we have run into time troubles?

Mr. Swart: With regard to security, will the minister please note the letter from Pollard Western Banknote signed by Mr. L. O. Pollard, president. It says, "At an expense to us of \$10,000, we have had our tickets tested by the highest recognized laboratory in North America and we have written results which state that our technological method of reproduction is virtually perfect and unexcelled anywhere in North America."

So that we will know, will the minister now table the three submissions made to him on Shoot to Score, those by Scientific Games and the two other companies? Will he table the contract? Will he tell us what proportion of that \$4 million will be skimmed off in the United States and not come back to Canada?

The Deputy Speaker: The minister's original answer was very complete. I suggest it could well have been a statement. Let us add four minutes to question period. Will the minister proceed with the answer?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, we had to rely on the forensic sciences lab here for a judgement as to whether these tickets were secure—we did not rely on the judgement of some other people—and we have taken that judgement seriously. I will guarantee that if we had any difficulty with these tickets that have the

scratch-off feature, the member would be the first to be screaming the tickets were not secure.

We had to take the judgement of both the forensic sciences lab here and of the Scientific Games lab in the United States. I will give the member a little food for thought which may help to dissipate the clouds of cynicism that are constantly swirling around his head and starting to skew his view of the world.

Perhaps the member should know I was also disappointed, because British American Bank Note Co., which did not win this contract, happens to be an Ottawa corporation. We have relied on the best scientific information available. We will stick to that and that is why the Ontario Lottery Corp. continues to have a great degree of trust from the people who play the game.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. The minister is aware the Niagara region has been hit with two more pieces of bad economic news; the closing of Warren Knit in St. Catharines, throwing 120 people out of work, and the closing of Welmet Industries in Welland, throwing 115 people out of work.

Would the minister be prepared to use his good offices to intervene personally to attempt to persuade these two companies to reconsider their decisions and to continue their operations in St. Catharines and Welland?

Would he undertake to convene a meeting with officials of both of these companies, along with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), at the earliest opportunity to attempt to accomplish that?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I know it will be a measure of some relief to the honourable member, as it is to my colleagues the member for Brock (Mr. Welch) and the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes), to note that this morning it was reported that the unemployment rate in the St. Catharines-Niagara region had reached its lowest point in three years, falling 1.6 per cent in the last month.

Mr. Bradley: That does not answer the question. It is not even a political question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me answer.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Has the minister completed his answer to the first question?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have completed my answer. I gave the information I wanted to get out. I would think the question should now be referred to the Minister of Labour.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the member for St. Catharines wish to redirect? Agreed.

11 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the member for St. Catharines contacted me yesterday afternoon with respect to arranging a meeting with the principals involved. I agreed to do that and I started to make those arrangements the first thing this morning. At that time, in addition to myself and representatives from the Ministry of Labour, there will be representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The member for St. Catharines will be invited as well.

Mr. Bradley: My supplementary question is to the Treasurer, to whom I directed the original question, because the Minister of Labour was kind enough yesterday to give that assurance and I wanted to have the Treasurer participate in this.

Despite the figures he brags about today, which are still too high, can the Treasurer assure the House that in the budget he is going to present on Tuesday afternoon he will include measures to stimulate the provincial economy and assist industries generally in Ontario?

Will he provide special assistance to those parts of the province, such as the Niagara region, which have had a chronically high rate of unemployment, which will no doubt be reflected in the new layoffs that have taken place? Will he be considering measures to assist smaller industries that are having a difficult time competing in the world market for reasons, I think the minister would agree, that are not their own fault?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, as the member for Brock and the member for Lincoln have discussed with all of us on several occasions, the Niagara area has undergone particularly difficult times because of world competition in the industries in which that part of the province happens to excel.

Notwithstanding the area's excellent record over the years, the world situation is changing in such a way that particular pressures have been brought on that area. Quite seriously, it is of some consolation that the area is now beginning to cope and to move into some other areas and some other products, with the assistance of all three levels of government. That is reflected in the lower unemployment rate for April 1984.

None the less, the conversations I have had with my colleagues and indeed the prebudget meetings, of which I have had two with communities in the Hamilton-St. Catharines-Niagara area, have been most instructive to me and have given me the kind of advice the member is offering.

Obviously, I cannot give him any guidance with regard to what will be in the budget next Tuesday, except to say that the measures he finds in that budget will not in any way speak to stopgap measures or short-term traditional kinds of make-work projects. There will be measures which, if they are successful at all, will be pointed towards longer-term investments in the overall structuring and rebuilding of areas such as the Niagara Peninsula.

That is not to say there will be specific measures for that area, but I want to caution the member and alert him to the fact that the policy I have adopted for this coming budget will be one that speaks to long-term diversification, restructuring and transformation. It will not contain stopgap, short-term measures.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: The Treasurer left the impression with some that the member for Brock and the member for Lincoln might be the only people concerned about unemployment in Niagara. As one of the authors of some of the people's misfortunes down there, he should realize that all of us in the peninsula feel good when the unemployment rate goes down; so he should not try to leave an impression like that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Do not say we are the authors of that misfortune. If the member does not want us to do that, he should be honest and say, as his party has said for many year, the big problems are interest rates and the serious problems are those that were outlined by his colleague. He was honest.

Mr. McClellan: Why is the Treasurer's microphone on? What a lot of nonsense around here.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. None of the members is well served with that intemperate language.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) mentioned the closing of Welmet Industries in Welland, which is going to take place in July. The minister will know this company has been a major employer in Welland for many decades and is now part of a large chain of businesses owned by the Canadian Corporate Management Co. Ltd.

Will the minister tell the House, first, when he and his government were informed about this closure? Second, in view of the fact that

Canadian Corporate Management is a prosperous company and its profits in 1983 are the highest in its history, will he meet with the corporate officers of that company and diligently seek ways of keeping Welmet in operation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, we will be happy to meet with the corporate officers. We attempt to do that in every closure. As I said earlier in response to the member for St. Catharines, we always bring the Ministry of Industry and Trade into those conversations as well, and we would be delighted to do so in this case.

Mr. Swart: Perhaps when the minister rises again, he will let us know when the company informed him it was closing down. In spite of what the Treasurer says, the government must know the economic situation in the Niagara Peninsula is a disaster. There may be a few more people employed, but more and more people are running out of unemployment insurance and having to go on welfare.

Does the minister not think, if his government is going to have any handle on employment and develop any strategy against the deindustrialization of this province, particularly in areas outside Toronto, he and his government ought to be notified of these proposed closures well in advance and involve themselves in an attempt to prevent the industries we have from going out of business? Does he not think his government ought to give some priority to preserving some of the present industries, instead of running all over the world trying to coax new ones to come here?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I believe I heard several questions there. On the first one, which is a follow-through from the member's initial question, as to when I found out, I am sorry I cannot give a precise date. I know I have been aware of the circumstances. I am not aware of when we were officially notified, but I will get that information and provide it to him.

Earlier in this session I used some figures, and I qualified them by stating a dislocated worker would not find any solace in them, but I wanted to present them in any case. I want to repeat those figures and then give an update on them. In 1983 over 1982, there was a reduction of 67 per cent in the number of closures and the number of persons affected. That is a very significant improvement. I have an update on that from figures released today. They cover the first quarter of 1984 as compared to the first quarter of 1983. They indicate that, in addition to that improvement in 1983 over 1982 of 67 per cent, there has been a further improvement in closures and persons

dislocated of 36 per cent. I think those are very significant figures.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the question—

The Deputy Speaker: Before the member proceeds, could I ask other honourable members to keep their private conversations very low or nonexistent while we complete the question period?

Mr. McClellan: Why do you not name them and throw them out?

The Deputy Speaker: The problem is they are in almost every caucus, but a little more prevalent here.

Mr. Swart: I do not know. I think they have more.

Mr. McClellan: They certainly pay a lot of attention to the Speaker.

Mr. Haggerty: First of all, I want to thank the Minister of Labour and his staff for co-operating and assisting in the difficulties in the layoff of Inco employees at Port Colborne.

The facts and figures presented by the Treasurer, which indicate the employment situation in the Niagara region is turning around and more people will be employed, may well be true in St. Catharines, but when one speaks of the Niagara region, one must consider Niagara South. I do not have to remind the minister of the layoffs at Inco, the phasing out of Hart and Cooley in Fort Erie and the long strike issue at Horton CBI in Fort Erie that has been going on since last February. Has the minister provided every assistance and every means available to get back to work a company that would employ 150 persons in the area?

Can he also advise the members of the Legislature of the present contract and the funding from the federal and provincial governments in regard to the proposed new helicopter development at Fleet Industries in Fort Erie? Is that program going to get off the ground this year or not?

11:10 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I totally appreciate the unemployment circumstances in the honourable member's riding. I also personally appreciate the comments he made about the efforts of my office in helping to facilitate the efforts of the United Steelworkers of America in negotiating an improved settlement with Inco. I understand the matters brought to me by the member, because my riding of Sault Ste. Marie has the highest unemployment rate in Ontario. It was as high as 30 per cent and is now around the

20 per cent mark. We are having some horrible times in Sault Ste. Marie.

I also understand his concern about Horton CBI. Algoma Steel has been in negotiations for a few weeks, and I am delighted to report to this House that a settlement was reached late last evening in those negotiations. While it has to be ratified by the workers, I am optimistic it will be.

To get to the matter of Horton CBI, I was asked whether my office was doing everything possible in the form of mediation and conciliation services. The answer is a very definite yes. It is a very troublesome work stoppage, and we wish we had the answers to it. Every effort is being made to bring the parties together.

CHRONIC CARE FACILITY

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton), I have a question for the Treasurer and former Minister of Health, if I could get his attention.

I am sure the Treasurer is aware that on Tuesday outside the House his colleague indicated that the government is now backing off the commitment the Treasurer made when he was the minister responsible to adhere to a four-year schedule to complete a new chronic care facility in Windsor.

Is the Treasurer aware of the comments of James Broderick, executive director of Windsor Western Hospital Centre, who responded by saying, "All Windsor is asking is its fair share as one of the last major centres in Ontario that does not have a new chronic care facility"? Is the Treasurer also aware of the comments of the president of the Essex County Medical Society: "It is the opinion of the medical community that we need a chronic care hospital and we need it now"?

Given those comments from the front-line health care community, can the Treasurer tell us, a dozen years after the commitment to build a chronic care hospital in a community that now has a firetrap for a hospital, why there is no allocation of money for any new chronic care beds in the province this year? That is what the Minister of Health said. Why is there no allocation of money?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I have spent an extraordinary period of time in the Windsor area over the last few years, particularly visiting the hospital facilities there.

Mr. Elston: Visiting the delegates.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There are none. There are just hospitals and good works put in by the government of Ontario. Often when I am down

there, I take calls from the mother of the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) on the open-line program. I really enjoy it.

In fairness, I have visited all the fine hospitals in the Windsor area. I know the honourable member will agree there has been a great deal of money invested in those hospitals by the government over the last half dozen years. There has really been a remarkable rebuilding and expansion program in those areas. They are well-equipped, modern hospitals.

The chronic care facility is one that has indeed been discussed for a long time. All I can report to the member is that the funding levels for the Ministry of Health will become apparent next Tuesday. I can indicate there is an increase in the capital allocated to that ministry compared to the years I was there.

My colleague has the very difficult problem of sorting out the allocation of those limited capital resources among all the competing demands in Ontario. I am sure he will be willing to explain how he has assessed those demands in the light of changed circumstances over the past 10 or 12 months.

Mr. Wrye: The minister will be interested to know—and I sent his colleague a note on an earlier spot check I did—that I did another spot check on Wednesday night. I managed to get figures from three of the five Windsor hospitals. Two of the hospitals were completely full on Wednesday night and the third had empty beds only in its paediatric ward. The Treasurer will know that those three hospitals had 82 chronic care patients in active treatment beds and, as a result, at least one of them was forced to cancel elective surgery because of the backup.

The Treasurer made the promise last year that we would get a new chronic care facility. He says there is more money, but there is obviously not enough for chronic care bed allocations. He says he has to have the social services maintenance tax. Why does he not target some of that money to help the elderly people and get a chronic care facility built in Windsor?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would remind the member that the social services maintenance tax was put on during difficult economic times, those times not having passed us completely. In itself that does not fund the health care needs as to building and capital programs of the Ministry of Health. In any event, the ministry remains committed to that project. I cannot report as to its exact timing, but my colleague is equally committed to making sure that facility is built.

BIRTH OF MINISTER'S GRANDCHILD

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of information, I have just been advised that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) became a grandfather today. The information includes a report that the new mother and father and their baby daughter are doing very well and that the Minister of Agriculture and Food came through the whole experience in obviously fine form.

11:20 a.m.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF
EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells) and Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), I table the following petitions:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION
RECIPROCAL ACCESS ACT

Hon. G. W. Taylor moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. McMurtry, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 64, An Act respecting Actions Arising from Transboundary Pollution between Ontario and Reciprocating Jurisdictions.

Motion agreed to.

RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF
JUDGEMENTS (UK) ACT

Hon. G. W. Taylor moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. McMurtry, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 65, An Act respecting a Convention between Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland providing for the Reciprocal Recognition and

Enforcement of Judgements in Civil and Commercial Matters.

Motion agreed to.

ABSENCE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I wonder if it can be made clear whether the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) is the acting Attorney General or whether he is just introducing the bill in the absence of his colleague.

The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has been absent now for a considerable period of time when a number of issues pertaining to his ministry have certainly been in the public eye and have been raised here in the Legislature.

It is normal in those circumstances when an important minister is absent from the House for a protracted period of time that one of his colleagues take over. I know that if the Solicitor General were away, the Attorney General would immediately become the acting Solicitor General. As a matter of fact, it appears he gave up that additional portfolio very reluctantly some years ago.

Is the Solicitor General the acting Attorney General? To whom should we turn if we want specific answers from that ministry?

The Deputy Speaker: I am not certain that is a point of order, but would the Solicitor General like to comment?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, as there is a cabinet directive on this, I am sure the honourable member is aware that during the absence of the Attorney General I am the acting Attorney General.

In regard to the bills that have been introduced today, naturally one would want the Attorney General's name on those bills. He will be bringing them through the Legislature, so his name will appear on these pieces of legislation; therefore, I introduced them in the absence of the Attorney General.

As I am sure the member is aware, I am the acting Attorney General during the absence of the Attorney General. However, if he has any questions to the Attorney General, on Monday the Attorney General will be returning, and he can put all those questions he has not been able to ask the acting Attorney General during the past two weeks to that man when he returns.

Mr. Nixon: For further clarification, Mr. Speaker: Is the Solicitor General the acting Attorney General by statute? Is that what he implies, or has there been a designation by the leader of the government?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, there is a cabinet procedure as to who becomes the alternative person when the other one is absent. It is by statute that the Solicitor General takes the place of the Attorney General during his absence.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I might clarify a matter again since there seems to be a little confusion.

While we did announce in the business of the House statement at six o'clock yesterday that we would start the committee of the whole House on Bill 142, An Act respecting the City of Barrie and the Township of Vespra, it became obvious that we had not allowed enough time for all those people who were interested in that bill to be notified and to appear in this House.

There was the added problem that the bill was to be called after the two orders that appear on the Orders and Notices, numbers 5 and 6, which might have meant it would never even be called today.

It was decided last night we would not schedule that bill today so people who wished to be here for that debate would be properly notified. I would think members of the House would agree with this. It is certainly our intention that the bill will be called. It will probably be called during the week of May 28.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the government House leader's comments. I only wish I had known that last night, because there were four or five people from Vespra township who came in here this morning expecting to hear the debate on that matter. Because we were not informed until 10:30 or 10:45 this morning, they made a trip to Queen's Park to be here to hear the debate, if it was going to come up. They have wasted a whole morning on that because we are not going to debate it.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I might say briefly that I appreciate that the government House leader did reorder the business of the day. It was at my request that the announcement was made at 10:30 last night, so it appears to me that at least there was the opportunity, if the members were present in the House, to be aware that the bill would not be called this morning.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I just want to make it doubly clear, in case there is some feeling around that the government was not going to be calling the bill and we were putting it off, that it is our intention to proceed with the bill. It has just been a case of rescheduling it for a time when all those

concerned could be here and present for the debate.

I am sorry if there has been any misunderstanding. Certainly I am sorry the people from Vespra township had to come down this morning and find that it was not scheduled. But next time we will be sure it will be scheduled in a way so everyone has a chance to know exactly when it is coming up and so it will come up and not be on the list after a number of other bills.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Watson moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Andrewes, second reading of Bill 36, An Act to amend the Ministry of Energy Act.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, this legislation is designed to enable the Ministry of Energy to more effectively carry out its current responsibilities. It is an updating type of legislation.

The bill before us has four aspects. The first is that of encouraging the prudent use of energy and the development of alternative sources of energy, which will be made more explicit in the ministry's mandate. The reference to alternative sources of energy will explicitly include those sources that are renewable as well as energy recovered from waste.

Second, in the bill, the ministry will have a greater flexibility in the choice of means for carrying out its mandate and will be better able to take advantage of the wide range of participation and financing mechanisms currently in use in the private sector.

The third aspect of this bill is that those who receive financial assistance from the ministry will be obliged to account for their use of that assistance.

The fourth aspect of this bill is that the requirement of the order in council approval for any delegation of powers by the minister to the deputy or the senior officials will be deleted, which brings the Ministry of Energy Act in line with most of the acts of the other ministries.

I look forward to the participation of the opposition critics in this bill and to their comments.

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, at the outset I would like to say I am very disappointed that the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) has not seen fit to carry this bill. That is not to detract from the parliamentary assistant, because I appreciate the work he does and I certainly appreciate his value to the minister.

At this time and on such a very important bill, the minister is doing what he does in that ministry. As an apologist for Ontario Hydro, he does very little but make all kinds of apologies for platforms and policies put forward by the corporation.

Why should we believe the minister at this juncture? He has done nothing to give citizens the confidence that the government will govern or that the minister will perform important tasks on behalf of the citizens. It is an indication to me that there is very little going to be done.

While we are going to support the bill and will propose an amendment to it, I cannot believe that because we print this on paper, the minister is going to do any more than ministers before him have done; that is, to play a very minor role as it relates to governing Ontario Hydro.

In recent memory, the only thing of any consequence that has been done to put the brakes on that big machine was done by a former Treasurer, and that did not seem to hurt the progress of Ontario Hydro one bit.

It seems we no longer have anyone over there with any kind of intestinal fortitude to stand up and say that the government, as represented here in this Legislature, is going to govern for the people of Ontario and not let some great monster such as Ontario Hydro do what it will, when it will and how it will.

I am very concerned that the minister is not here and is not going to play a more significant role in matters of energy.

When we begin to talk about the bill before us, we are talking about the minister becoming more involved, but I would like to say there are people involved in the same areas of responsibility that the minister speaks of in the bill. The federal government, the provincial government, Ontario Hydro, the larger municipalities, the Ontario Energy Corp. and all sorts of private sector people are involved in the very matters contained in this bill.

When are we going to get these people together to have a say in the thrust of alternative energy sources and of conservation? These are important matters to the citizens of Ontario which will relieve them of the burden of 19 different forms of governments and bureaucracies trying to do the same thing.

The thrust of my argument to the minister today is, will he give us a commitment that he will remove from the jurisdiction of Ontario Hydro and any other area over which he has some say—if he has the will to say it—all the things covered in this bill and give the taxpayers and

power users of Ontario a bit of a break and get off their backs?

The answer I would like today on matters pertaining to this bill is that we are going to do something that might be considered efficient and governed in a way in which this government takes credit for but can hardly point to as having been effected.

I say to the parliamentary assistant that unless we relieve the taxpayers of the burden of carrying seven or eight levels of government or other jurisdictions doing the same thing this bill asks us to do, there is very little likelihood the bill will perform the task he describes in great terms as one that is going to be helpful.

I am, of course, giving the minister notice that we will put an amendment that would address itself to the concerns I have, namely, that we are going to remove from Ontario Hydro and from other jurisdictions wherever we can the overlapping bureaucracies that are going to attempt to do the same things the minister says he is going to do in the bill but in the past he has proved not to have done.

Many promises have been made by Ministers of Energy, such as developing 2,000 megawatts of some 5,000 or 6,000 that are out there potentially available to put into the grid, the best kind of power that exists today; they have not done that. They talked about putting in the lignite reserve research to get involved in doing those things that might give us a source of thermal capacity in the province, which would certainly be encouraging. They have promised at the Bruce energy development that we were going to take waste heat from some of our nuclear involvement and put it to work. Many of these things have been done in the past, but in fact none of them has reached fruition.

I say to the parliamentary assistant, with respect, that we shall support the bill; however, we will do it reluctantly because it has been proved in the past that all these great and glorious words are printed in bills and all the things described as going to happen very seldom do happen. I would like a commitment from the minister, and at the proper time in clause-by-clause consideration, I will put an amendment that deals with our concerns.

In closing, I suggest to the parliamentary assistant that if he is to provide the kind of leadership in this ministry that will more clearly define the role of Ontario Hydro and take from it all those things that are not truly the development and distribution of energy as well as taking away the hypocritical attitude in some of the ads, in

which we are in one sense talking about conservation and in another sense talking about going electrical, the parliamentary assistant can see we have a long way to go to get credibility back into that ministry.

I wonder when there is going to be a day when the Minister of Energy stands up in this Legislature and truly represents the people of Ontario and not a corporation that has a mandate like very few others in the world. The mandate that was given to Ontario Hydro under the Power Corporation Act says Ontario Hydro will answer only to the commissioners. I wonder whether such a mandate ever was given that did not ultimately result in a huge bureaucratic monster. How could we expect anything less if the government has no control whatsoever?

The Conservative Party and Conservative governments expound on the virtues of the free enterprise system and how we should let it do its thing. If there were a huge company out there, that company would have to respond to the shareholders. In other areas of responsibility, it would have to come back to the House of Commons or to the Legislature of a provincial government to answer. How could we ever have assumed that Ontario Hydro would be completely responsible to the power users and citizens of Ontario if it was given such a broad and powerful mandate?

We will support the bill. We hope our amendment and some of the promises made in the bill about the minister taking the initiative will go hand in glove with relieving the burden to the taxpayers of having many other jurisdictions doing the very same things.

I expect to get into more detail in the clause-by-clause stage, and I will put my amendment at the proper time.

11:40 a.m.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, this bill is probably not a very important bill, as the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) said, but it is part of the trend that is characterizing this session. In my opinion, the bill does not mean anything, apart from subsection 3(1), which removes the requirement of approval by order in council of any delegation of power by the minister to the deputy minister and other senior officials.

The parliamentary assistant said the bill would encourage the prudent use of energy and the development of alternative sources of energy. Is this not the major task of the ministry at present? I would like to put on the record what Canadian Public Administration wrote in its fall 1983

issue. An article written by L. Graham Smith says:

"In 1981, the Ministry of Energy's total staff was 126, organized to deliver three main programs: conservation and renewable energy (CARE), conventional energy, and strategic planning and analysis. Electric power is a component of the conventional energy program. Budget figures contained in the ministry's 1981 annual report revealed that the conventional energy program received less than seven per cent of the ministry's annual budget, compared to the nearly 70 per cent or \$23.4 million spent annually on the CARE program.

"Clearly, the major focus of the Minister of Energy is conservation and the development of renewable energy resources. By comparison, minimal emphasis is placed upon electric power planning and respondents to this study indicated that the minister's staff 'in essence, leave Ontario Hydro untouched.' With respect to electric power planning, the ministry's role can be characterized as one of monitoring Ontario Hydro's actions and, in the words of one respondent, 'attempting to influence not what they do but how they go about it.'"

This may be the real problem we have in Ontario. We have a Minister of Energy who is unable to do his job, even though he devotes 70 per cent of his budget to conservation and renewable energy. The minister and the ministry are captives of Ontario Hydro. The real decisions are made by Hydro, and since it is a utility with a huge surplus at this time, Hydro is not in the least interested in conservation, so the role of the government is totally subordinate and inefficient in that respect.

On many occasions the New Democratic Party has proposed a real conservation program as well as a program on renewable resources. We think we should take that route, because the select committee indicated we still have untapped hydraulic sources in Ontario. After promising it would start moving in that direction, the government has done almost nothing. One of the aims of this bill is to give the government greater flexibility in the choice of means of carrying out its mandate. I think the Ministry of Energy has all the flexibility it needs under the Energy Act to carry out its mandate.

We have made proposals that do not need any change in the act. We have said that if the government wants to encourage conservation, it can choose several approaches, from giving a no-interest conservation loan to the people who are interested, to getting into a kind of program

with retrofitting companies following experiments that have been very successful in other jurisdictions. The government has chosen not to do anything about that.

May I ask my colleagues and the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) to listen to the important point I am trying to make?

The other point of the bill is that the minister proposes that those who receive financial assistance from the ministry will be obliged to account for the use of that assistance.

The practice of the government is that those who receive government assistance should not account for the use of that assistance. Everything is possible under a Tory government but I do not think the government would have been forced to explicitly admit that something went wrong that we did not know about, and the parliamentary assistant did not tell us about, so all at once the government needs this requirement.

This is a no-bill and apart from giving the minister and the deputy minister more flexibility in delegating power, there is nothing more. We support the bill but it does not solve the energy problems facing Ontario. It does not touch the major problems in the relationship between the Minister of Energy and Ontario Hydro. It does not touch the problem arising from the fact that Ontario Hydro is undertaking a course of action with which many people in Ontario do not agree, the nuclear option. Therefore, we reluctantly support the bill, hoping at a future time the government will come back with a more serious bill.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments by both opposition critics. I would say to the member for Niagara Falls that I express regret on behalf of the minister who is not here, but today he happens to be attending one of those alternate energy openings which is in Elora, where they are using—

Mr. Kerrio: Why did I not get invited?

Mr. Watson: I guess they left the member's name off the invitation list. It may not be in his riding, I do not know. This ministry is very interested in alternative energy and it just happens that event was set for today. From what I have heard during past estimates, I understand members opposite have been very great in promoting some of these small hydro projects, so we are doing something in that field.

I would remind the honourable member we do have a lot of other programs to promote conservation and efficiency in our homes and we have Trucksave and some of the developments in heat pumps. There are certainly a lot of

promotions in the Ministry of Energy, and we are investing some of the money we have at our disposal in the promotion of those.

I would remind the member that some of the things he has made reference to with regard to Ontario Hydro would come under the Power Corporation Act rather than under this bill, which is an updating bill.

I appreciate the comments of the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) and that he does recognize it is an updating and clarification. Most of the things that are done in here with regard to the activities of the Ministry of Energy are probably being currently done through the authority of the estimates in that process, but members would like it clarified, and this is a matter of clarifying it, making it a little clearer. Times have changed and we wanted to put in words to more aptly represent what is actually going on.

I appreciate the comments of both critics and hope the matter can proceed forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

11:50 a.m.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 36, An Act to amend the Ministry of Energy Act.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Kerrio moves that the said act is further amended by adding thereto the following section:

“8b(1) The minister shall issue on behalf of the government of Ontario a comprehensive policy directive in the form of a statement setting out the policy framework in respect of the production, generation, transmission, distribution, supply, sale, use and development of energy resources in Ontario within which Ontario Hydro formulates operational and management decisions.

“Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the policy directive shall contain:

“(a) a statement of the respective duties and functions of the government of Ontario and Ontario Hydro in relation to energy matters;

“(b) a specification of the policy objectives of the government of Ontario in relation to energy matters;

“(c) a specification of the financial objectives of Ontario Hydro;

"(d) a specification of the limitations that may be imposed upon Ontario Hydro operations and borrowings by the government of Ontario and the conditions under which these limitations may be imposed.

"(e) a description of the further operations to be constructed by Ontario Hydro in order to fulfil its responsibilities and assist in achieving the policy objectives established by the government of Ontario, including an estimate of the extent to which these operations will require financial assistance from the government of Ontario.

"(2) The policy directive shall be amended or revised from time to time to reflect any change in the policy of the government of Ontario concerning the matters referred to in subsection 1.

"(3) The minister shall lay the policy directive and every amendment or revised policy directive before the assembly if it is in session, or if not, at the commencement of the next ensuing session."

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, I shall be very brief because, as the parliamentary assistant is well aware, we went in depth into the concerns we had regarding the bill.

We in this party have over many years attempted to put into place a reasonable energy policy for Ontario, one which, if the minister has the initiative and will to pursue, would certainly not accept the furthering of Ontario Hydro's ambitions, but rather would draw a kind of policy framework within which Hydro would more purposefully discharge its initial intent. That intent basically was to produce power at the lowest possible price for the users of Ontario and nowhere else.

Having said that, I would hope the government would accept this very worthwhile amendment and so, carrying on from a very responsible involvement of a former Treasurer, the Honourable Darcy McKeough, begin to put just a few levers or reins on this great and wonderful asset of the people of Ontario.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to speak on the amendment that has just been provided to us. While we have not had long to study it, it seems as though it is a reasonable and sensible proposal, which has amazed and surprised us.

One of the problems with Ontario Hydro, and this may serve at least to highlight and illustrate the problem, is that Hydro is a government within a government, a power unto itself. Over the course of the last 15 to 20 years it has successfully resisted all attempts of the elected government of Ontario to bring it under control.

We have seen a succession of efforts being made by the government to try to bring a greater measure of accountability to Ontario Hydro, including the ultimate act by the Premier (Mr. Davis) of appointing one of his very closest personal and political advisers to head this great corporation. That has not worked either.

How to control the large crown corporations that have developed in the latter part of this century remains a major problem for democratic governments. I know this is also a problem in Quebec. Some people argue Hydro-Québec is a larger government than the government of Quebec itself, because of the size of its projects.

At any rate, we have a situation in which Hydro has historically been allowed to go its own way, to commit this province to a policy of absolute reliance on nuclear to the exclusion of other more rational and sensible and less costly alternatives. Either the government finds itself locked into a position or it is leading us to a position of 70 per cent reliance on nuclear generation.

12 noon

Hydro has committed us to billions of dollars in public borrowing to finance this exclusive reliance on nuclear and the government is in the process of mothballing the nuclear facilities which it finds it does not need because of oversupply. It is an absolutely Kafka-esque kind of scenario. This huge corporation has undeniable technical and management skills that are in the forefront of world technology, but the one thing that is lacking is accountability and clear political control.

This amendment obviously is not going to achieve that long-sought objective, but at least it states clearly that it is the responsibility of the government of Ontario to control, direct and set policy for Ontario Hydro and not the other way around. The tail has to stop wagging the dog, and the sooner the government recognizes this, the sooner it may be able to reverse the historic and confused errors it has allowed Ontario Hydro to drag it into. We are now mired in billions of dollars of unnecessary expenditures and in the mothballing of billions of dollars' worth of unnecessary equipment at a time when Ontario Hydro finds it does not have the wherewithal to develop more rational, less polluting and less dangerous alternatives.

To come to the nut of my speech, we will support this amendment.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the member for Niagara Falls for putting forward such a useful amendment. As a

matter of fact, in many respects it is one of the most important topics that has been presented to the Legislature in this session. Those who have followed it carefully must realize that if it is accepted—and we certainly expect it will be accepted by government members opposite—it will restore a modicum of legislative and government control to the basic decisions taken by Ontario Hydro.

I am particularly pleased that the New Democratic Party is supporting the amendment as well because I believe very strongly it is essential that some government operation or control of Hydro decisions be re-established.

It is not very many years ago when the constitution of Ontario Hydro was essentially the Hydro-Electric Power Commission Act of Ontario. Under that act the commission members were appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and always included either a cabinet minister or a member of the government party. I never felt it was sufficient simply to have a nice, tame Tory on the board of Hydro, but it simply meant that sitting in the Legislature was an individual to whom questions could be directed who had direct and legal responsibility for the decisions taken by the Ontario Hydro of the day.

With the coming of the Power Corporation Act, we in the Liberal Party objected that this integral and important connection with the political arm would be lost. Considerable debate went on about the view expressed by the government which, incidentally, was supported by the NDP of the day. I do not see anybody from that time still sitting in the chamber as their numbers slowly reduce. Those NDP members of the day who joined the Conservatives in severing this political connection have simply been lost to the wind or have been forced out by the political requirements of changing leadership. But I certainly do recall the debate then and the fact that the NDP voted with the Conservatives to remove the political control that we as Liberals felt was essential then and certainly is even more essential today.

With the power of the appointment of the board, when the Premier (Mr. Davis) crooks his little finger, we know the Ontario Hydro board gets the shivers. But they realize that the Premier has only a passing interest in these things and that he plays it best politically by simply letting Hydro do its own thing and mumbling: "Of course, I am not an engineer. I do not know about these complex matters."

Over the years since the commission was abolished, Hydro has been making a succession

of bad decisions, however good its motivation might be. The grand tradition of keeping on the lights at all costs is one we support; we expect the energy to be flowing when the switch is flipped.

At the same time, we have seen tremendous erosion in the cost balance of Ontario Hydro and, unfortunately, some of the major technological decisions that have been made by Ontario Hydro have not worked out as successfully as all of us would have wished. Now all of us are even praying. The problems Ontario Hydro has experienced with its nuclear technology is not providing any joy in opposition party circles or anywhere else. We wish them well in their efforts to get the machinery and its design improved.

I feel strongly that this amendment which, in a modest and moderate way, re-establishes some government control of Ontario Hydro decisions is one that should be supported by reasonable members on all sides. We see that there are a few of the reasonable Tories in the House today. It may be that they can strengthen the backbone of the parliamentary assistant who no doubt has been given the usual instruction not to accept any amendment. In this particular case, since the initiative and the concept have to be so important, attractive and acceptable to this House, we can go forward with a voice vote that will generally accept it and put Ontario Hydro back on the rails with at least moderate government control.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Chairman, the first thing I would like to say about the amendment is that I feel we do not need legislative directives to direct the policy, and this seems to be a matter of policy. All the debate I have heard concerning this amendment has to do with the Power Corporation Act, as if we were talking about it, which we are not. I noted the Chairman did not rule it out of order, but it would deal with the Power Corporation Act, if we were talking about that, rather than a bill affecting the Ministry of Energy Act.

I realize that the member for Niagara Falls has strong opinions on this. I have had the opportunity to debate those opinions a few times on Metro Morning and places such as that and I am quite aware of his thoughts. On behalf of the ministry and the government, I would say this amendment does not fit into this bill and therefore we are in opposition to it.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I was surprised at the comment of the parliamentary assistant when he said we cannot get this proposed amendment in the present act. He did not say what act it could fit into or be placed

under. He said something about the Power Corporation Act. I believe we have moved or proposed similar amendments at different times for the government to accept.

If the member look at the amendment, it follows the principle of section 8a, and that is accountability. If they are going to take public funds and hand it out to some corporation such as Ontario Hydro there has to be some public accountability in that area.

As a member of the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs for a period of about five years—and it was not re-established after the last election—I am aware of the comments of the majority of committee members at that time. They wanted some accountability brought about and placed on the Ministry of Energy and Ontario Hydro.

I suppose we are looking at other energy resources. All we have to do is look at Suncor and the concern about the expenditure of public funds there. The public will never be reimbursed for that financial disaster. It seems to be a continual practice of the government of the day that it can always look to the public and tax it to death for some areas of misjudgement in the programs it is trying to implement and which it says are a good thing for Ontario.

12:10 p.m.

I am concerned about the expenditures of Ontario Hydro and particularly about the nuclear development program. As a select committee of the Legislature, we dealt with the heavy water plants at Douglas Point. Comments by experts from Ontario Hydro and by experts from outside the country or the province indicated to Ontario Hydro that at that time it had built too large a plant. In other words, instead of having one plant producing heavy water, if Ontario Hydro had built three small ones to compensate for that one large one, it would have had a sufficient supply of heavy water without the expenditure on the other three plants. Part of one was put in mothballs, and I do not know what is going to be done with the second phase of the other one. It has not been functioning since the day it was constructed. That is a waste of public funds.

The amendment proposed under section 8b of the act is that this government and this ministry have to have some accountability to Ontario and its taxpayers. It is too bad we did not have proposition 13 here in Ontario. It would have shaken some of the government members over there. Every time one turns around to look there is an increase in municipal taxes of eight or nine or 10 per cent.

We have seen increases year after year in hydro rates. I can recall that one of the reasons the select committee was established was that Hydro was wanting a 30 per cent hike in the annual rate for the users of hydro in Ontario, which was damned well ridiculous at that time. We see it is gradually coming again. Ontario Hydro uses the same principle as Bell Canada uses. Hydro has a rate application every year before the Ontario Energy Board.

Someplace along the line the government is going to have to have some real, sincere accountability. This amendment will provide the opportunity for the Legislature to have that input. Subsection 8a(3) of the proposed amendment to the act says, "The minister shall lay the policy directive and every amendment or revised policy directive before the assembly if it is in session or, if not, at the commencement of the next ensuing session."

That is not asking the government for anything. It is not costing the government one cent. If the minister or the parliamentary assistant has the courage to accept the amendment, he will find out it will save money for the taxpayers and there will be accountability attached to it.

Our critic, my colleague the member for Niagara Falls, who introduced the amendment, said something about the former Minister of Energy, Darcy McKeough. When one is talking about a leadership race over on that side, there are many persons today out on the street and in the general public across the province who would like to have Darcy McKeough back on that side leading that party so he could bring about some accountability in the expenditure of taxpayers' money. If the members are not aware of that, they should check on Bay Street and they will find there is quite a bit of truth in what I am saying.

I suggest to the minister and the parliamentary assistant that this costs the government not one cent. Accepting the amendment will save money for the taxpayers. I suggest the government members that they should support something for a change that is really going to provide some benefit to the taxpayers of the province.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Kerrio has moved an amendment to section 2.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 2 agreed to.

Sections 3 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Eaton, the committee of the whole House reported one bill without amendment.

ONTARIO PENSIONERS PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved second reading of Bill 37, An Act to amend the Ontario Pensioners Property Tax Assistance Act.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, this bill will amend the Ontario Pensioners Property Tax Assistance Act to introduce a deadline for claiming sales tax grants and to provide administrative authority for waiving collection of overpaid grants in special circumstances.

As it stands, the act requires timely application for property tax grants while allowing an unlimited period during which to establish eligibility for sales tax grants.

Although almost all the 900,000 eligible seniors receive their sales tax grants within a few months of the year to which they apply, my ministry must go to the expense of maintaining records indefinitely on the contingency that relatively few seniors might have delayed in establishing their eligibility for the grant.

This bill will remedy the current situation by requiring that requests for sales tax grant eligibility be made within one year of the period to which the grant applies. This is the same deadline that currently applies for property grant application purposes.

With more than 600,000 property grant applications, a similar number of interim payments and around 900,000 sales tax grants to be handled each year, it is unavoidable that some incorrect payments to seniors will occur as a consequence of human or system error.

However, the current provisions of the act do not allow my ministry's officials any latitude in dealing with the inevitable cases where seniors are paid amounts for which they are later found to be ineligible.

The second amendment included in this bill will provide for flexibility in collecting overpaid grants in those special circumstances where I deem it would be unreasonable to request full repayment of the overpaid senior.

These two measures reflect my ministry's commitment to the ongoing refinement of this important program.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we have no substantial objection to the amendments which in a minor way make the operation of the ministry a

little more convenient for the officials and do away with a need to maintain extensive and, I suppose, unnecessary records.

However, the minister and his staff have just moved into an administrative Taj Mahal, a veritable Canadian Pentagon, to the east of Toronto and bought a computer facility so complex that evidently no one in North America was able to operate it.

Mr. Speaker, you will remember that the minister and his predecessors authorized a special delegation—

Mr. Breaugh: The member is driving them out of here, one by one.

Mr. Nixon: I thought I was doing rather well.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Robinson): Order.

Mr. Nixon: The minister in his wisdom, and his predecessor, have gone to the United Kingdom to get the kind of brainpower that evidently we do not have or train in this country to operate this computer. Having been provided with the last word in accommodation and computer facilities by the taxpayers and having taken the initiative on his own and with his predecessors to go to the United Kingdom at a large public expense and hire some people over there to run the computer, I would have thought he would not come to the House complaining that he had to keep records for an extra year or two for a paltry 600,000 applicants. I thought that would be done in the twinkling of an eye, or in a quarter of a chip as far as we are concerned, with the facilities he has.

If the Minister of Revenue considers this is the legislative program he wants to put forward during this session of the Legislature, all we can do is express some regret that perhaps we are not moving forward in the principle of assisting senior citizens rather than this footling and, I suppose, inadequate content to simply improve the efficiency in some small way.

We are very glad to respond to the minister's request with our consent, but we want to express some regret that he found it even necessary under these circumstances. As members of the House, we ought to be treated to something more effective and more important for the utilization of programs to assist our seniors.

12:20 p.m.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, for far too long we have been faced with a situation where our seniors are persecuted by the Ministry of Revenue. Agents and operators working for the ministry actually persecute senior citizens for mistakes made within the ministry.

I am glad to see the minister is before the House this morning on bended knees, begging for our co-operation in ceasing this persecution of senior citizens. I think there are adequate instances on the record of this Legislature to show that it was clearly a stupid and unfair process that was at work.

A mistake was made by ministry officials, not by seniors, where the ministry officials seemed bound and bent to get their pound of flesh from some poor senior citizen who, through no fault of his own, had a cheque mailed to him and then had to give the money back. It seems to me that is an unfair, insane way to process all these cheques.

We would be remiss if we did not note in passing that this government persists in setting up a tremendous operation at rather colossal expense to give people back their own money. That is essentially what this exercise is all about. This is a process whereby the government of Ontario collects money from our seniors and then gives them back a portion of that money, for which the seniors in Ontario are supposed to be immensely grateful.

Of course, it is a political exercise, and when the amounts of money have been thrown at the system to make this little process work, all our seniors will know is that the good old government of Ontario—Big Brother and Big Sister—is looking after their best interests. Also, our citizens will know that the Tories in Ontario have given them a cheque.

We think there may be better ways to proceed in providing substantial amounts of assistance to our seniors and to others in our community, but we recognize that this has been a Tory tradition in Ontario; it takes a dollar from somebody and sends back a cheque for a quarter, so to speak. The premise is that at election time they will be reminded through a constant barrage of newspaper advertisements, television ads, etc., that the government of Ontario is giving them back at least a little of their own tax dollars.

That process has been an incredibly awkward one in the last few years. The minister has his bunker headquarters across the road from my humble little office in Oshawa. It is a magnificent white iceberg with whirring computers. The minister has a magnificent operation. It is by and large a political operation to see that people in Ontario are constantly reminded how friendly and good the Tories are at administering things.

This program is probably the most bungled administrative attempt ever put forward by any government anywhere. To relieve itself of its bungling, it threw untold millions of dollars at

the program to make it work. From the last report I received from the ministry, it would appear the difficulties it had initially are dying down. The millions of dollars have worked; they have finally learned how to put out a cheque properly.

In the last report I saw, I think only a half dozen or so people from my constituency office were at the point where they had to use the member's office to rectify a problem. It appears that after about four years of operation the minister has begun to figure out how to do this. He has brought in sufficient computers, manpower and imported expertise finally to get the cheques out.

We are happy this morning to see that the minister is once again begging our forgiveness. We are in a very kind mood this morning, and while he is on both knees praying for forgiveness for past sins, we are happy to give that privilege to him. We are happy to see that some little bit of common sense has finally entered the picture.

There are a couple of other ramifications of this bill that may not be quite so pleasant. We will wait to see whether the requirement to register within the year works out. I am somewhat fearful that this ministry would have a little difficulty organizing the traditional one-car funeral, but I see them across the road from my office and I have been through that building. It is an impressive sight to see all that computerization and technology at work. I have some hope that in the end, despite the best efforts of the ministry, this program will actually work. That will be an amazing day.

We will support the amendments that are before us, and we are happy to see that once again the Ministry of Revenue is admitting that its past tactics with senior citizens were wrong, that its attempts to threaten and malign them were wrong and that it is better simply to forgive them when the ministry has made a mistake. We heartily endorse that proposal.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I should inform the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) that the Ontario pensioners property tax assistance program runs through the Queen's Park computing centre as opposed to the Ministry of Revenue. That is not a criticism of that computer, but I think the honourable member will agree that the handling of the Ontario tax grants this past year and at present has been improved quite substantially.

I have tried to keep all the members aware of the progress in their individual ridings, so they know not only how many complaints have come to us from the ridings but also the names. We do

that as a way of helping them to secure their position in their ridings. I know how appreciative the members are, and I appreciate the vote of confidence of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) brought up a rather interesting point; that is, as he puts it, the persecution of our senior citizens by these mad giants of Revenue people who come in and persecute, torture and all that. Because of this very problem we have with the sales tax branch, there are some unavoidable instances of cheques being applied for by mistake after the death of one of the seniors. This does happen. By law we are required, when we discover that error, to make an attempt to recover.

The auditors, as the members well know, bring up points such as the member for Brant-

Oxford-Norfolk did about our trip to England. It is brought very forcibly to our attention if we do not make an attempt. The practice of this ministry with these cases over the last several months has been to go through the routine of making that attempt. A letter is sent, but it is followed very soon by a letter saying we are taking no further action.

I do not know how else we can do it in terms of the Provincial Auditor, other than to have a change in the act in the future to enable us to write it off more quickly. I would suggest that is an improvement that might well come.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

The House adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

TRIMINISTRY PROJECT

249. Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much money was expended in connection with the triministry project in total, and on each of the direct operations, capital and transfer payments, for each of the years 1980-81 to 1982-83, and how much money is it estimated will be spent, both in total and in the categories specified above, for the year 1983-84? What is the overall total expenditure and the breakdown into the above categories for the four years 1980-81 to 1983-84? By how much does the four-year total fall below the \$27.5 million given as the projected total cost of the project in the April 1980 information paper *Mentally Retarded Clients in the Homes for Special Care and the Extended Care Program*? To what extent, if at all, can the shortfall in expenditure be explained by reference to any reduction in the need for development programming which may have been identified in the course of the triministry project's operation? (Original notice December 6, 1983) [Tabled March 27, 1984]

250. Mr. R. F. Johnston: Will the ministry provide, for each of the homes for special care and nursing homes accommodating mentally retarded people subject to the triministry project, the following information: (a) the number of mentally retarded people in residence; (b) the number whose capacity to participate in specialized developmental training programs has been assessed by the project; (c) the number so assessed who were found able so to participate; (d) the number for whom individualized program plans (IPPs) have been completed; (e) the number for whom IPPs remain to be prepared; and (f) the number with completed IPPs for whom the prescribed developmental training has been provided (i) fully, (ii) partially or (iii) not at all? (Original notice December 6, 1983) [Tabled March 27, 1984]

251. Mr. R. F. Johnston: In which nursing homes or homes for special care are service co-ordinators in place without any other developmental programming funded and implemented by the triministry project? How many mentally retarded people for whom IPPs have been prepared reside in these facilities? How much time has elapsed from the completion of these

IPPs to date? (Original notice December 6, 1983) [Tabled March 27, 1984]

252. Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much has been charged by nursing homes and homes for special care to the triministry project in rental or other fees in respect of office or other space occupied by service co-ordinators or otherwise utilized for developmental programming initiated by the project, for each fiscal year since 1980-81? How many assignable square feet of space have been secured in return for these rental or other fees? (Original notice December 6, 1983) [Tabled March 27, 1984]

253. Mr. R. F. Johnston: What is the total amount paid by the triministry project to owners and operators of private nursing homes and homes for special care, for each fiscal year since 1980-81, in respect of administration fees or other charges related to the establishment and operation of service co-ordination programs? How much of these funds were paid to each of the nursing homes or homes for special care in which service co-ordination programs are in place? (Original notice December 6, 1983) [Tabled March 27, 1984]

254. Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much has been expended in total by the triministry project, and in which nursing homes and homes for special care, for each fiscal year since 1980-81, on enhanced staffing programs? How much of these expenditures has been paid in respect of administration fees? How many nurses' aides or other employees have been hired by each facility receiving funds for enhanced staffing? How much of the time of such nurses' aides or other employees has been devoted to developmental programming, as distinct from general nursing or personal care, and by what means has such allocation of time been monitored? (Original notice December 6, 1983) [Tabled March 27, 1984]

255. Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much has been provided by the triministry project in total, and to which nursing homes or homes for special care, for each fiscal year since 1980-81, in respect of capital improvements to buildings, grounds, equipment, etc.? On what items have such funds been expended? (Original notice December 6, 1983) [Tabled March 27, 1984]

256. Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much money has been provided by the triministry project in total, and to which nursing homes or homes for special care, for each fiscal year since 1980-81, for items other than rental of space, administration fees on service co-ordination programs, enhanced staffing and administration charges in respect of such staffing, and capital improvements? In particular, how much has been provided in respect of telephone service, heating and other utilities, transportation and staff other than service co-ordinators or persons hired with funds allocated for enhanced staffing? (Original notice December 6, 1983) [Tabled March 27, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Drea: Since 1982, the triministry project has been managed directly by our field offices. For this reason, the detailed information requested in questions 249 to 256 will take more time to assemble than was anticipated when an interim response was tabled in this regard. We will therefore endeavour to table a written, detailed document in response to questions 249 to 256 in the ministry's estimates debate with the standing committee on social development.

NORTHERN MEDICAL SERVICE

277. Mr. Stokes: Will the Minister of Colleges and Universities advise the House (1) how many students are enrolled in medical schools in Ontario universities; (2) how many of these students come from northern Ontario; (3) how many of them have indicated a preference for practising in northern Ontario upon graduation; (4) will the ministry, in concert with the ministries of Health and Northern Affairs, prevail upon medical schools in Ontario universities to accept 10 per cent of their enrolment from northern applicants who are prepared to practise in the north; (5) since many communities in the north have the same problem in attracting dentists, physiotherapists and speech therapists, will the ministry provide me with the same statistics requested above for medical practitioners; (6) what is the total amount of provincial government financial assistance to northern students studying medicine in Ontario medical schools in scholarships, bursaries, grants and loans; and (7) will the ministry give serious consideration to establishing a medical school in northern Ontario? [Tabled April 6, 1984]

See sessional paper 87.

APPOINTMENTS TO POLICE COMMISSIONS

291. Mr. O'Neil: Would the Solicitor General (1) list all the persons appointed by his ministry

or by the Lieutenant Governor in Council upon recommendation of his ministry since February 13, 1982, to a position on a municipal board of commissioners of police pursuant to the Police Act; (2) identify whether the persons listed above were at one time Progressive Conservative candidates in a provincial general election or by-election; and (3) identify whether the persons listed above at present or formerly occupied positions on the executive of the local Progressive Conservative riding association? [Tabled April 12, 1984]

Hon. G. W. Taylor: When the answer to order paper question 291 was prepared, some information was inadvertently omitted.

1. Five other persons were appointed to boards of commissioners of police between February 13, 1982, and April 19, 1984: Cornwall, Judge Adrian Forget; Elliot Lake, Dr. William Long; Gloucester, Jean J. Charlebois; Pembroke, Judge L. P. Foran; Stratford, William Russell.

2. None of these persons was a Progressive Conservative candidate in a provincial general election or by-election.

QUEEN STREET MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

306. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health advise the House how many patients at Queen Street Mental Health Centre have wandered out of the centre without official leave each month since July 1982? How many of these AWOL patients were involuntary? [Tabled April 16, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The figures for July, August and September 1982 were provided in a response to an earlier order paper question, as were the figures for January, February and March 1983.

	No. of patients on unauthorized leave	No. of involuntary patients
1982		
October	28	19
November	25	18
December	25	18
1983		
April	19	6
May	23	10
June	30	19
July	39	26
August	28	16
September	35	18
October	30	21
November	25	16
December	24	18

1984

January	20	11
February	23	15
March	25	15

OHIP SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

315. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health inform the House which, if any, of the medical services and procedures covered by the Ontario health insurance plan does the ministry view as being undercompensated in the present OHIP schedule? [Tabled April 18, 1984]

316. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health inform the House which, if any, of the medical services and procedures covered by OHIP does the ministry view as being overcompensated in the present OHIP schedule? [Tabled April 18, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Negotiations between the Ontario Medical Association and the government have been based on achieving a resolution on the global adjustment to the schedule of benefits. The changes to be made in the schedule of benefits for the purpose of implementing any increase is the responsibility of the OMA subject to approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

This answer in substance reflects the wording in the last agreement signed between the OMA and the government on May 7, 1981.

HEALTH SERVICES APPEAL BOARD

319. Mr. Foulds: Would the Minister of Health table the following information about the Health Services Appeal Board: (1) what is the board's mandate; (2) what guidelines does the board follow; and (3) what health services can be appealed, and under what circumstances? [Tabled April 24, 1984]

See sessional paper 88.

320. Mr. Foulds: Would the Minister of Health table the following information about the Health Services Appeal Board: (1) how many appeals have been made to the board for medically necessary travel that have originally been denied by the air ambulance branch of the Ministry of Health, for each of the following time spans: 1975-80, 1980-82 and 1982-83; (2) how many of these appeals were for travel outside Canada; (3) how many of these appeals were for travel outside Ontario but within Canada; (4) how many were for travel within Ontario; (5) when did the board first start hearing appeals for medically necessary travel; (6) how many appeals for medically necessary travel have been successful; and (7) how many such appeals have been rejected? [Tabled April 24, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: 1. Seven appeals have been made to the Health Services Appeal Board for medically necessary travel as follows: 1975-79, zero; 1980, three; 1981, zero; 1982, two; 1983, two; 1984, zero (to April 30); total, seven.

2. Two of the seven appeals were for travel outside of Canada.

3. None of the seven appeals were for travel outside of Ontario but within Canada.

4. Five of the seven appeals were for travel within Ontario.

5. The first appeal for medically necessary travel was heard on March 17, 1981.

6. Six of the seven appeals have been successful.

7. One of the seven appeals was not successful.

INTERIM ANSWER

300 to 305, 307 and 310. Mr. Cooke: Hon. Mr. Norton—The information requested relating to the above order paper questions will require some time to complete. The information will be provided on or about May 25, 1984.

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No. 43

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, May 14, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 14, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

REPORT ON RENT REVIEW

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, this morning, at the opening of further hearings being conducted by Mr. Stuart Thom in his review of the rent review process, the commissioner commented on the delays that have occurred in the completion of his report. In his comments today he pointed out that I await the full report with "controlled impatience."

Mr. McClellan: Oh, yes. Right.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is at the printer's.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Is that a squeak I heard over there, like the other one when I had to have the question repeated?

Mr. McClellan: It was a laugh, if the minister wants to know what it was. It was sort of in the nature of "Ha ha."

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I know the honourable member has his concerns about certain members of his party, but he should not squeal so much. He should relax. The squealing will die down after a while.

Mr. Thom has advised that although his report is in draft form, it is felt it would be better not to finalize it until it is known whether there should be additions or amendments arising out of the hearings that commenced today.

In view of the inaccuracy of previous predictions as to when the report would be finished, I hesitate to suggest another completion date. If the hearings proceed as scheduled at present, they will be completed in two weeks. It would then appear that the commission would require additional time to make revisions to the draft report before it can be printed.

This leads me to comment on an earlier reply I made in this House about the stage of the report at that time. On April 27, in reply to a question from the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), I indicated the report was in the hands of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) for printing. I wish to assure the House that this was the information I had received at the time.

It appears, however, that in the course of information moving from the commissioner's office to the staff of the Attorney General to my staff, a misunderstanding arose over the exact stage of the printing process. Although I do not know for certain what occurred, it would appear that the existence of a draft report and the fact that bids were being called from printers by the staff of the Attorney General led to a conclusion that in fact the report was ready for the printers. It is clear that this was not the case, and I wish to apologize for any confusion my remarks may have caused.

I also wish to indicate my very real disappointment that the report will not be available at a much earlier date than now appears will be the case. However, as I have said before, this matter is in the hands of the commission. Mr. Thom himself stated this morning that the additional delay arising from the further hearings is regretted and that the last thing he desires is that completion of the report should be held up for a moment longer than necessary.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GO TRANSIT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am not surprised.

Mr. Peterson: We have to make him feel important.

The minister will be aware that some 11 years ago in a fine film made at a cost of \$152,000—untendered, I should add to the Premier (Mr. Davis)—the then Minister of Transportation and Communications announced a great transit plan for northern Metro. The minister will recall that on the strength of that film his colleague won the Transportation Man of the Year medal at the time.

He will also recall an elaborate announcement made two years ago about a transportation plan for northern Metro. Now we read in the morning press that he has been mugged in the corridors of power by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and that there will not be a transportation plan for northern Metro. What is the minister's plan for transportation in northern Metro?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, my plan is exactly the same as it was on October 7, 1982. It has not changed. That plan was introduced, based on a cabinet minute approving it. The announcement was made, and there have been no substantive changes to that plan in the interim. By the way, I was not mugged in the corridor.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister telling us the Treasurer was mugged? It is important that we clear up this press report, which I gather the minister would call misleading since he is standing in this House and completely denying it. He knows about the traffic jams in this city. He knows one almost needs a reservation to take the subway during rush hours. He knows the major transportation arteries have become parking lots. Is he now standing in this House and saying clearly that the government policy is to proceed as announced two years ago and that he has beaten the Treasurer in their internal fight?

Hon. Mr. Snow: No. I did not say that. With regard to the Toronto Star article, those portions of the article attributed to me are factually and, as far as I can see, perfectly correct. There are sections of that article that refer to a mysterious Queen's Park source, as so often seems to be the case with a lot of information around this building. However, I cannot agree with this mysterious source's information. That part of the Toronto Star article is factually wrong.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister will forgive us if we are not entirely clear about where matters now stand. Is the minister saying the plans he announced some two years ago are going ahead, or is he saying they have been changed or delayed? Exactly what is he saying?

He is as baffled as other members of his cabinet always are by leaks from mysterious sources. Naturally, we would all dearly love to know who they are, which person it is in the Premier's office or wherever else they may happen to be. I do not know. Apart from commenting on those sources, could the minister clarify this basic and simple point? Is the plan he announced two years ago going ahead, or has there been some change in it? If he cannot tell us now, when will he be able to tell us?

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the plan is basically going ahead as announced. If I may give the honourable member a slight update, when I announced the plan on October 7, 1982, we announced we were going to build two extensions to the GO Transit line, one from Pickering to Oshawa and one from Oakville to

Hamilton. We were going to start right away with the planning of those two lines. We also said we were going to start a planning process that would last 18 months to two years to define a route across the north of Metro to connect Pickering to Oakville. All those things have been going ahead exactly as was announced.

As to the Pickering-Oshawa section, the planning went ahead slightly faster than was anticipated. There was a great deal of co-operation from the municipalities and all those involved. That has been finalized. Tenders were received last Wednesday for the first contract. Either today or tomorrow, probably tomorrow morning, I expect I will be signing the award of that contract. Another contract is to be tendered later this month, and six or seven more are to be awarded during this fiscal year on the Pickering-Oshawa section. Everything is happening just as it was planned.

As to the other section, between Oakville and Hamilton, the section of the plan from Oakville to Highway 6 is in the same position now as the Pickering-Oshawa section. It would be in a position to go forward except that the section from Highway 6 into Hamilton has not yet been clarified as to which route is going to be used. Consultations are still going on. This matter is still before the council of the region of Hamilton-Wentworth and the council of the city of Hamilton. Further reports are going to that council in the next few days.

It is obvious we will not be able to start construction on the Oakville-Hamilton section this year. Consequently, we are not planning any expenditures for construction on that section. I hope the matters relating to Hamilton will be resolved in the next few weeks and we will be able to start planning for and working towards a start on that section a year from now.

In the meantime, planning is proceeding for the Pickering-Oakville link around the north of Metro during the two-year period, as we said it would two years ago.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I notice the Toronto Star source seems to be absent from his seat in the House, and I hope he is still well after this cabinet battle, particularly in view of the budget tomorrow.

If the plans for the northern GO route are still proceeding, why have the public meetings for that route been cancelled?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any public meetings that were cancelled.

PENSION REFORM

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. No doubt the minister has been reading about the deficiency in the pension fund at CCM as well as certain allegations about his ministry not being on top of that situation. There is also the broad policy issue, which happens to be the need for pension reform in the private sector in this province in a whole variety of areas such as vesting, locking in and all those matters.

In view of the fact that we have had two major reports, the select committee report and the Haley report, we are continually dragging our feet on this question, which in large measure is the minister's responsibility. Why has he not brought in reforms that would in large measure have prevented this situation?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, without in any sense trying to avoid the question, I hope the Leader of the Opposition is aware that pension policy is in the hands of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) as distinct from pension administration and regulation.

Having said that, I think the Treasurer has made his proposals clear. It is also clear from the record that he will be having meetings with his counterparts throughout the country very shortly to review the issues to see whether there can be some compatibility in the process.

Mr. Peterson: The administration of the current act is the minister's responsibility and some of his predecessors have been active in encouraging reforms in this province. Why was the ministry not on top of the contributions to the fund? That is now going to cost the guarantee fund millions of dollars to make up for a deficiency on the inspection side.

What has the minister done to inform himself of the regulatory capacity of his ministry? Why was he not on top of the situation? How much is it going to cost us to fund because of the inability of his ministry to enforce the rules?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: With the greatest of respect, and I do not mean that in the usual way said between fellow lawyers standing in a court because the Leader of the Opposition would know what that really means, I do not look on this as a regulatory failure.

The facts of the matter are that under the statute, under the regulations and under the practice of the commission, within six months of the previous calendar year, the commission receives a statement from the employer with respect to contributions he or she has made to a plan for his or her

employees. An actuarial report is required every three years, and at that time it is ascertained whether the contributions made during the three-year interval meet the requirements of the particular pension fund and the benefits that have been scheduled.

That particular actuarial report had not been delivered, but the filings made by the company had been made. Whether or not they were adequate would have been a matter that would have been determined if the events that overtook the company had not occurred and the actuarial report had pointed out any deficiencies there were.

It is fair to say this province is fortunate with respect to the fact that it does have in place a guarantee fund to meet crises such as this, and it is because of it that the benefits which workers would have been entitled to up to three years prior to the termination or winding up of the plan will now be met as a result of the contributions from the pension guarantee fund.

Mr. Peterson: Would the minister not agree with me, when he looks at the specifics of this situation, that even though it is better than nothing, it is clearly inadequate and it speaks to legislative deficiencies and the inability of this House and the government to wrestle with the problems of pension reform? It is now too late in this situation, and many of those employees will have been denied what would have been their benefits in normal circumstances.

My question to the minister, again in broad terms, is: when is he, together with his colleagues, going to bring pension reform into this House so these kinds of situations do not have to happen? Are we going to drag our feet for ever? Surely it is a priority.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I have already indicated the Treasurer's timetable very clearly and he has indicated that publicly as well.

However, I might say that if one were to have some sort of trivia quiz, as some reporters are known to do in some of their columns, and one were to ask, "Which province in this country is the only one that has a guarantee fund in place?" would anybody know the answer? Manitobans might not know it, because they do not have one. The former Saskatchewan government, which has a well-known reputation, did not have one. The province of Quebec does not have one. The federal government does not have one.

There is one province in this country that has a guarantee fund to protect workers, and it is right here. Let the Leader of the Opposition take it from that who is concerned about protecting workers' interests, and the only conclusion he can draw is that this government is concerned.

But let me be fair with respect to part of his question. There is a need—

Hon. Mr. Davis: What is John Turner's view of this issue?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The Premier does not know what the view would be today. Come back tomorrow and we will know the real view.

Mr. Ruston: What is Mulroney's view? He has nothing.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Back to the question.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I think there is a need to address the issue—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Boy, they are touchy over there.

Mr. Bradley: What is John Clement's view?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Their leader doesn't want to carry the can for them.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I think there is a need—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I only wish the minister had been at the meeting I was at on Saturday and had given the same kind of answer in talking about how well workers are protected. There were a lot of workers there who were not protected, who have not been protected, and who are losing out as a result of a failure on the part of the Tory government in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Rae: That is a fact.

Can the minister confirm that the actuarial report which was filed in 1978 with respect to CCM recommended that an unfunded liability of more than \$1.8 million should be covered by annual past service payments of \$214,000 and that these were not fully made?

Can the minister confirm that payments on the basis of current service, approximately 15 cents an hour worked, recommended in the 1978 valuation report, were not fully made? Can he confirm that amendments introduced under the 1980 collective agreement increased the total liabilities of the plan by more than \$1.8 million and provided for an increase in the current service contribution to 26 cents an hour worked, and that these contributions were not fully made?

Can he confirm those three basic facts? Can he also tell us exactly what the commission was doing between 1978 and 1982 to ensure that contributions were made in order to protect the savings of the workers at that firm?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, when the actuarial report was received with respect to the prior three years in 1979, the deficiency there was noted, the requirement was made that an amount be paid into the fund and it was done. As I have indicated fully, from that point on, the role of the commission was to make certain there were filings and the contributions were made, and the adequacy of those filings and the amounts deposited would be matters that would be determined when the regular triannual actuarial report was received.

Let me be very clear. It is my determination that it is not satisfactory. We do need to go further than this. We do need to have a process whereby individual employees and/or their unions are advised on a more regular basis about the facts with respect to the contributions and whether or not they meet the requirements of the plan.

Having said that, I do not think any one of us relishes the fact that workers at CCM have suffered a hardship as a result of this; we all understand that. The only point I am trying to make is that it is fortunate we do have in place a guarantee fund that provided the benefit protection the fund was intended to provide.

I tell the member quite frankly, as we now look back in retrospect, even if the amounts that should have been forthcoming had been made they still would not have met the requirements that were necessary and there still would have had to be a substantial payment from the guarantee fund. The net result is that the guarantee fund moved in to provide a level of protection that certainly cannot be satisfactory to everyone but that indicated there was a process in place that certainly helps workers to some degree.

Mr. Rae: If the minister is saying that even if CCM had made the contributions the plan would still have been underfunded, and that is what I have just heard him say, can he tell us how many other companies whose plans are now on file with the Pension Commission of Ontario are in a similar position?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Let us first understand that a significant number of new benefits were added in the 1978-79 bargaining period, and the member will know from his experience in the world of accounting and finance that a 15-year period is required for funding. Until that 15-year period is reached, certainly there will be underfunding; until that 15-year period has elapsed—which, by the way, is exactly half the funding requirement time in the United States, for example—then a

particular benefit that is negotiated will be underfunded. That is a fact in all pension plans.

Mr. Peterson: Given that the minister is right and that under current pension benefits legislation there is that 15-year period to make up deficiencies or underfunding, as he says, and this is the way it has worked in the past, one of the realities is that if there is no enforcement of the contributions in, if one does not take the view that those are deferred wages and the employees have the right to obtain them, then one can run into the kind of situation we had with CCM.

Would the minister not agree we need tougher enforcement to make sure those funds are actually paid in? This comes directly under his ministry. Is the minister prepared to take the leadership in discussions with the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), who is responsible for pension reform in general, and say we need to beef up the enforcement to make sure each company that contracts with a group of employees lives up to its side of the bargain?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The member raised this in an earlier question and I was about to comment on it when the Speaker cut me off. I think he does have a valid point, and we are looking at issues that might provide workers and their unions with greater information about the timeliness of funding to contributions to the plan. We have been looking at that for some weeks. I would not think there is a need to wait for that as part of the broader reform package.

Mr. Rae: There are still a lot of unanswered questions that we simply have to get at about what happened between the pension commission and CCM between 1978 and 1982 in terms of correspondence and enforcement.

How does the minister justify the three-year holiday, the three-year gap in the pension guarantee fund? I would remind the minister of what this shortfall means to the workers at CCM. One man who retired in early 1982 will have his annual pension of about \$4,500 cut by \$900. A 69-year-old's annual pension will be reduced by nearly \$1,600, from \$6,200 to \$4,600. Another worker, who was 43 years of age when he left the company in 1972, was supposed to have an annual pension of nearly \$1,100 when he reached 65 years of age; now he will get about \$425 a year.

There are literally dozens of other workers, and the minister will be aware of this, whom I met on Saturday who are not going to be getting any pension at all because of the vesting requirements in the law, specifically with respect to the pension guarantee fund. What justification

can there be for this three-year gap? There is no three-year gap for protection for depositors in trust companies, banks or credit unions and there is no three-year gap with respect to the travel fund.

Why is there a three-year gap when it comes to the deferred wages of workers and the savings of workers, when the difference for individual workers between what they would have had in 1982 and what they end up getting now because of this three-year holiday is hundreds and thousands of dollars a year in many cases? What justification can there be for that gap?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I hope you will be patient for a moment, Mr. Speaker, because there are two fundamental questions that have to be addressed here.

First, had there been no pension guarantee fund, virtually the only workers who would have received pensions, even assuming the contributions had been up to date, would have been those who were already on retirement. As a result of the intervention and the payment of a large sum of money from the guarantee fund, those workers received a protection—admittedly a reduced protection. Their bridging benefits received some protection and workers who are going to suffer hardship as a result of being laid off will receive a degree of protection.

True, those who have had under 10 years' service will not receive protection, but those who have had 10 years' service and are under 45 years of age, and therefore not vested, will also receive some degree of protection. I know that is not enough to answer the needs they have. I understand that. I am only pointing out the fact that without the guarantee fund things would have been worse.

Second—and this was debated extensively in the House—the main point of the member's question had to do with what one might call a cliff or a cutoff point. The member and I know, and trade unionists I have spoken to acknowledge, that there might well be a tendency on the part of parties negotiating to sacrifice wages for pension benefits in the event the company did not survive.

We had lengthy discussions with our counterparts in the United States where there is a similar cutoff period. It was agreed, following debate in this House, that it was a most appropriate measure, so it was passed after full discussion and debate.

What that three-year cliff really means is that if a specific pension benefit is negotiated prior to that three-year period then it is protected to the

level that it is funded by that time, but as the escalation occurs afterwards it is not protected. There has to be some sort of a process such as that, and it was determined that was the most appropriate one.

Mr. Rae: If the minister is suggesting that workers anticipating a bankruptcy are going to try to make some kind of an arrangement for their pensions because they know they are guaranteed, that is the most outrageous example of blaming the victim I have ever heard from this government. It is the most unlikely scenario one can imagine.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Can the minister confirm there are 200 annual returns, out of 8,745 plans registered that were supposed to have been made to the pension commission as of December 1983, that have not been made? Can he confirm that figure?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I do not have those figures with me.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: If the pension commission is going to be releasing, under the minister's name, a report that says the pension commission kept close watch over Ontario's registered pension plans last year, surely the workers in those 200 companies which have failed to file a return are entitled to know what is happening and what their protection is. What is the pension commission planning to do about those delinquent returns?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I have already responded to the leader of the third party and to the Leader of the Opposition in great detail outlining the present process with respect to annual filings. Deficiencies are determined when the actuary reviews them on a triennial basis.

I have determined that is not satisfactory. We have to move towards some more frequent process of evaluating the sufficiency of the contribution and towards a process which advises employees and/or their unions on a more regular, and shorter, basis than that. We have been working on it for some time and hope to proceed with it in the near future.

Mr. Rae: I hope the minister will undertake to table a list of those companies as soon as possible.

How would the minister feel if he were a CCM worker and he read in his Financial Times on Friday that when Jack Gallagher resigned as the chief executive officer of Dome Petroleum the company paid \$3 million into a trust company to establish an employee benefit plan; Bell Canada set aside nearly \$300,000 as a future retirement

allowance for its chairman and president; the former chairman and chief executive officer of Falconbridge Nickel Mines received \$125,000 as a retirement allowance in 1983 and H.C. Hatch, Sr., of Hiram Walker Resources received pension benefits of \$190,000 in 1983?

How would the minister feel if he were reading that and saw there are really two Ontarios and two Canadas—an Ontario and a Canada where the average worker gets stuck every time with the cost of change, yet somebody such as Jack Gallagher manages to get \$3 million set aside for himself for the genius of his financial creativity over the past 10 years?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I would not be prepared to get into a discussion of the justification of its merits. There is no one in this House who is satisfied with what happened to the CCM workers. I am saying we have endeavoured through the guarantee fund to provide a greater level of protection than has any other province.

That may not be enough and there may be, as I have said, a need for more frequent information being given to workers and/or their unions about the sufficiency of the funding levels, but I do not think in Ontario we should apologize because we have a guarantee fund in place. I do not want to comment on the merits or demerits of pensions others receive.

HAMILTON GO-ALRT

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications relating to the choice of the York Boulevard alignment for the new government of Ontario advanced light rail transit program. The minister will know by now this proposal will require the expropriation and demolition of 50 houses in the community, the disruption of a neighbourhood cemetery, as well as a great deal of dislocation on York Boulevard. He will also know there are at least 4,500 to 5,000 people in the area who have signed petitions opposing this.

Given all of this, and given that the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo railway right of way would take people right downtown and perhaps would be cheaper, is the minister prepared to indicate he will re-evaluate his decision to locate this along the York Boulevard route and consider a more practical and cheaper alternative along the T, H and B right of way?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am not about to make any changes in course at this time because we are still in the planning process. The technical advisory committee that evaluated all

the possible routes into Hamilton recommended the York Boulevard route. This committee is made up of about 10 engineers and planners, eight of whom are representatives of the region of Hamilton-Wentworth and the city of Hamilton and only two of whom are representatives of my ministry.

The recommendation for the use of the York Boulevard route is a recommendation of the majority of the committee, of whom eight out of 10 are from the city of Hamilton. That recommendation is before the municipal council and the regional council and I will await their decision on the recommendation.

Mr. Cunningham: Would the minister not agree the choice of the T, H and B alignment would allow for a more readily expandable opportunity in the eastern direction towards Stoney Creek? Moreover, will he confirm that more recently threats have been made to people living in the local community that they take the York Boulevard alternative or they get nothing?

Is the minister in a position today to tell us those threats are not consistent with fact and have not been made? Is the minister aware of this?

Hon. Mr. Snow: All I can say is they certainly have not been made by me or by anyone representing me. I cannot suggest what threats the member might have made to the people of Hamilton.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, the minister is aware that there has been quite an extensive sounding of local community concern on this question and that the people most immediately affected have expressed their anxiety about the route which now seems to be surfacing once more.

Will the minister ensure that when these ventures are undertaken in future people will be consulted beforehand and not after the decision? Will he also undertake to trust the local community to look closely at what obviously have not been well-examined alternative routes, especially the T, H and B route? In every explanation of that option, I have not seen any substantial evidence that the local committees have really pressed the issue of serious investigation of that alternative.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the serious investigation the honourable member is referring to that the local community should do. To start with, I would like to take issue with the first part of his statement, before he got into a question, with regard to the public participation process and his suggestion that public participation take place before the decision.

I would like to ask the member what the devil he thinks is going on now. No decision has been made. Certain studies have taken place and certain recommendations have come forward. However, no decision has taken place and many public meetings with a great deal of public participation have gone on, are going on and will continue to go on regardless of what the member says and regardless of how he tries to mislead the people of Hamilton.

Interjections.

An hon. member: He did not say, "in the House." He said, "mislead the people of Hamilton."

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the minister—

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, you will do the honours.

Mr. Peterson: You can mislead an entire population, but not a the member of this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know what he said and I heard it quite clearly. I think the minister would like to reword the answer or withdraw the offensive word.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, what I am interested in is that the people of Hamilton have the full information and the truth.

Mr. Speaker: Right; we all are.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I did not accuse the member of misleading anyone in this House, but I believe he has misled the people of Hamilton. If that is wrong and I cannot say it, I withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW BOARD

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Last October, I raised questions in the House about delays of rulings of the Social Assistance Review Board and about the fact 70 per cent of its cases were being heard later than was provided for in the regulations. The regulations state, "Forty days following the sending of a notice of appeal there shall be a ruling."

Can the minister state why the case of Waruna Hoelke has not yet been heard? This is a learning disability case I took before the board in February, which is now 91 days and counting from the notice of hearing. It has caused his parents to take him out of Pine Ridge school in the United States because they cannot afford to keep him there any longer until they hear the ruling.

Why does it take so long to get rulings from that board when one can get a ruling on an appeal from the Canada Employment and Immigration

Commission in days? Even the Ontario Labour Relations Board never takes more than a few weeks for the most complicated of cases? Why does the Social Assistance Review Board take so damned long to bring forward rulings for the poorest in our society, those who need the most help and have the most urgent need?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, on the whole I think the Social Assistance Review Board does an excellent job, particularly in the area of handling appeals from the learning disabled. That is not really in my ministry but concerns appeals for the Ministry of Education. I will report back to the House tomorrow if the member will send over the name of the case.

I would remind the House that the Social Assistance Review Board is an independent board and does not consult with the minister, but I will find out what the difficulty is. The second thing I would like are the details of the withdrawal from the particular school in the United States.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In the autumn of 1981, for the first time I know of, the SARB study group brought this problem of the length of time to the minister's attention. It was 60 days after we had the appeal that Mrs. Hoelke received a letter saying the group had reached a decision and was sending it off to the board's legal counsel and we would hear by May 7. It is now May 14 and we have not heard.

Why are so many of these cases going to legal counsel? How much money is being paid to Mr. Fulton and his friends to hold up the decisions? The last two weeks of his fee, which I understand may as high as \$1,000 a day, would have paid for this kid going to school for an entire year. Why are lawyers making a bonanza out of SARB delays while the poor wait?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not know the economic circumstances of the family nor do I want to. On that type of appeal, it does not necessarily have to be a poor family. It is based upon the—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The wealthy keep sending their kids, but the poor cannot.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Behave yourself, will you?

Mr. Speaker: Back to the question, please. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Does the member have the little thing with the red light on the end of it aiming out to get the right tone of voice?

Mr. Speaker: Back to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have to defend such a renowned solicitor as Mr. Harold Fulton in this House.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much is the minister paying him?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do take exception to the allegation that Mr. Fulton is paid to block decisions. The Social Assistance Review Board is an independent board. It operates by statute at arm's length from the minister.

I have already told the member I will find out the details of this case. On many of the appeals for children and adolescents who have learning disabilities, the very nature of the appeal is that the local board of education, either the public board or the separate school board, has maintained it can provide—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We will come back to that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think I would if my campaign chairman were the head of the board of education.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The simple fact of the matter is that when a board of education says it can provide special education, there is no vehicle by which public money can be spent to send the child to another jurisdiction. Quite often the legal decisions are based upon the fact that the board says it can provide special education, but expert evidence or witnesses have been brought forward by the plaintiff or by the appellant saying it cannot be provided.

The legal opinion is to ensure that the decision, if it is in favour of the appellant, will not be overturned and, by the same token, if it is against the appellant, because these are very substantial matters involving young people, that it is correct legally. Tomorrow I will give the member the reasons for the delay. Quite often the delay is caused by the fact that the evidence simply is not in. It is a very delicate type of proceeding and no one wants to make a decision until it is in.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that by September 1985, when Bill 82 takes over this situation, the minister's vocational rehabilitation branch will no longer deal with such children. I stand to be corrected if that is not the case. Are any guidelines being given to the board suggesting it does not take on any new cases because of the impending change approximately a year from now, or is it still totally free to make whatever decision it feels is appropriate at this time?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge any appeals would still be heard. I think what has to be taken into account is that a particular type of education may have been provided over a period of time, but they do have to come back every year. I think it would be most unfair to say it was a three-year type of thing that ended after two years because of the full implementation of Bill 82. I would think they would not want to entertain a placement that would start after Bill 82, but I cannot see any reason why they would want to do anything now and I have not heard anything about it.

I would also point out to the honourable member that my own ministry and the Ministry of Education have been working closely on these matters. It is not just a question of the vocational rehabilitation branch. It goes far beyond that.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' DISPUTE

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Labour. Last Saturday I had three gentlemen from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1788, in my office in Thunder Bay regarding the Hydro strike at Atikokan. There was a lengthy discussion in which they showed concern.

I would like to suggest that something be done immediately to get the union and management back together at the bargaining table. I feel a strike of any length of time will prove a financial problem for the workers, their families and the local economy. I ask the minister to use his good offices to get both parties back together at the bargaining table.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) has written to me in respect to this matter. Atikokan is affected, as are Bruce, Darlington, Pickering and Lakeview, with the electrical workers going on strike last week. There are 24 workers involved at Atikokan out of a total of 1,072. Most of the workers involved are at Bruce where there are 534; there are 200 at Darlington, 120 at Pickering and eight at Lakeview.

Each work stoppage is unique in itself. Our mediators feel with some work stoppages it is prudent to get the parties back to the table immediately. With other work stoppages they feel it is wise to let the parties cool off a bit before they bring them back. Our senior people are involved in the mediation exercises with Hydro and the electrical workers, and I am confident that they will be able to get them back to the table in the near future.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, will the minister convey to the various parties that the cost of not resolving this situation could be very severe, up into the \$3.5-million-a-day range, if the power plants have to be taken out. That would obviously have an impact on everyone concerned. Will the minister use his good offices to convey that the price in this matter will be spread widely over the province and potentially have a huge impact on the consumer? Will he use that point of view and argument to persuade people, hopefully, to come to an early resolution.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, my officials and I are well aware of the circumstances and the possible repercussions of this work stoppage. I want to assure the Leader of the official opposition that everything is being done that can be done at the present time in the form of mediation and conciliation services.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, as the minister knows from when we raised this last week, at least part of the reason is the restraint legislation that now has workers doing the same job at two different rates, one being \$1 an hour less, on the site. Does the minister not know that \$1.8 million would resolve this totally? That may be an awful lot cheaper than what we may face if the situation is not resolved shortly.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, it is not my responsibility to negotiate the settlement or to suggest to the parties what they should offer or what they should accept; that is part of the collective bargaining system, as the honourable member knows full well. He has been involved probably more than any other member in this Legislature over the years in collective bargaining.

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In response to my question of May 8, to which he gave me the answer last Thursday, the minister said there has been no policy change in respect to the release of pure cultures of pathogenic bacteria.

Dr. Manson of Charing Cross says this information is not factual. In the case I referred to, in which the farmer lost \$12,000 because the laboratory failed to release the cultures, the veterinary first asked that the cultures be released on February 20 and asked for them several times subsequent to that, but they were not released until seven weeks later, April 9, when he called Dr. Henry in Guelph.

Is the minister aware that Dr. Henry of the ministry's veterinary services lab, as reported in the *Globe and Mail* on April 20, 1984, stated there were three reasons for the policy change? One was to transfer services to the private sector, the second was to relieve personnel in the light of restraint policies and the third was to protect the ministry from legal liability.

Will the minister admit there has been a policy change, as outlined in Extension Notes For Veterinarians of February 1984, number 291? They state: "The following services will no longer be offered: rat pregnancy tests, bubonic pregnancy tests, bacterin production"—and that is the one we are talking about—"and wart vaccine production." That extension note has a footnote on it that says, "Not to be published."

Will the minister admit there has been a change, according to that note?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I will take another look at it. With respect to the release of cultures, my information from staff was that this is a long-standing policy. The fact that one veterinarian at Charing Cross says the ministry is wrong does not necessarily mean the ministry is wrong. But I will take into consideration the information the honourable member has provided today and take another look at it.

Mr. McGuigan: Will the minister look at the fact that Dr. Manson says that even at the present moment, if the farmer puts pressure on the veterinary services lab it will pass on the bacterin to the private lab, but it will not do it for the veterinarian? This would be equivalent to a provincial medical lab responding to the patient but not to the medical doctor.

Will the minister examine his own statement of Thursday, in which he points out that the private lab was unable to culture the positive organism? I think this is a situation in which the defence has made the case for the prosecutor. The minister himself pointed out the heart of the problem. The private lab cannot do the job, and the ministry lab's refusal to pass on the work prevents the veterinarians from carrying out the corrective methods in a timely manner.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Certainly, I will be glad to consider all of that. I pointed out last Thursday that the main purpose, of course, for the provincial veterinary laboratories is diagnostic work. The information I presented to the member last Thursday was that which had been provided to me by senior staff of the ministry after the member had asked his initial question. I will certainly go back to those people and take another look at it.

MALVERN SOIL CONTAMINATION

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy. The minister is no doubt aware of the problem of the radioactively contaminated soil in the Malvern survey on McClure Crescent. He should also be aware that a proposal was made last fall by the Atomic Energy Control Board and the government House leader, who is the member for the riding, to move the soil to a provincially owned site in Scarborough, and that today a residents' association is commencing a court case to oppose that removal to the government-owned site.

Can the minister tell us here in the House why his ministry and Ontario Hydro have so adamantly opposed moving that radioactive soil to one of the nuclear sites in this province where radioactive wastes are being stored already?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that the ministry has opposed the movement of this material to any particular site. Discussions have taken place among the municipality, this government and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., which has control and jurisdiction over the disposal of nuclear wastes.

Mr. Charlton: If his ministry has not opposed the removal of the soil to one of the Ontario Hydro nuclear sites, perhaps the minister could tell us whether or not he is prepared to make an offer to the Atomic Energy Control Board and the government House leader to allow the soil to be moved to one of the Hydro sites. The court case, which commences today, may very well again delay the removal of that soil from McClure Crescent and may again put the residents of McClure Crescent in a situation where they have to go through another year and a half or two years of struggle to try to get that soil removed.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I assume the government will attempt to expedite the removal of that soil in the best possible way to the safest possible location. I am not aware of any approaches made to Ontario Hydro by either the Atomic Energy Control Board or Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. about the storage of that soil on any Hydro site.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Education dealing with a particular learning disability often referred to as an attentional deficit. Is the minister aware of the activities of a group of parents in Guelph, which has now extended to Kitchener, known as Circle H? Their activities are directed specifically to their concern about the lack of particular

attention given to that learning disability. Is the minister also aware that a number of American jurisdictions have now recognized it as a specific learning disability and are dealing with it in a unique way?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the actions of the Circle H group were drawn to my attention earlier today by the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) from articles from newspapers in his area. I have been aware of this disability for much longer than this member since I was a practising family physician for more than 30 years, and hyperactivity was certainly one of the major problems we had with small children. It is a matter we have been dealing with in a number of ways, both medically and pedagogically, with limited success in some cases but with very good success in other cases.

There are a number of ways of dealing with this matter, some of which are being addressed by certain programs I am aware of in the United States, which are somewhat different or very specifically and narrowly directed and which, for some children, seem to be particularly beneficial.

One of our philosophies related to the matter of dealing with learning disabilities is not to exclude any means that could provide an appropriate solution to the problems of the children involved. I do not intend to narrow the focus of the pedagogical pursuits of teachers of special education in this province by suggesting that only one route would be the appropriate one. We will certainly look at that route and incorporate it where it would seem to be beneficial, and where portions of it would seem to be beneficial if not all of it is.

3 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney: The minister will also be aware from the information I sent her that more than 200 parents in my community have expressed concern that the way in which their children's disability is being dealt with at present is not satisfactory. She will be aware that within her own guidelines such designations as communications, behavioural, etc., are specifically identified, but when they are applied to this group of children the response and the teaching techniques are simply not appropriate.

Will the minister give these parents some assurance that she will look at this type of learning disability a little more carefully? Only the minister with her staff could confirm this, but they have told me that as many as 80 per cent of the children who have a learning disability could have this one. If it is partially a medical problem,

because as I understand it the neurotransmitters in the brain are affected, just dealing with it as a communications or behavioural problem simply is not sufficient.

This is the basis of my question: these parents really are looking for the minister to reconsider that in this case a particular designation and approach to dealing with the problem might have to be enforced in Ontario, as it has been in other jurisdictions.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Since attentional deficit dysfunction is a component of many of the problems faced by children with specific or nonspecific learning disabilities, one questions whether one would need to add a special diagnosis particularly for this.

From my reading of the articles that were sent to me by the honourable member, I perceived that many of those parents were saying the problem was not only within the educational program but also at home for very many of them. The problem at home can be very severe for parents who have little guidance in the means of dealing with the difficulties of a very hyperactive child.

It is not a matter that should be dealt with only by the school system, as the member has suggested. Indeed, it is a medical diagnosis in most circumstances and needs to be dealt with in that way first with the co-operation of the special education teachers within the school system who can provide the appropriate kind of direction for many of these children.

Most certainly this is being looked at, there is no doubt about that; but I am not about to commit myself to adding ADD as a very specific kind of label for children. We have done everything possible within the amendment to the Education Act, which is better known as Bill 82, to remove the tendency to label children within the school system. That label is a bad enough one, and most of them get it before they ever get to school.

INSPECTION OF NURSING HOMES

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health regarding Rest Haven Nursing Home in St. Thomas.

I first wrote to the Ministry of Health on this matter back in February 1983. I wrote a follow-up letter in March 1983 and phoned the inspection branch out of London for a third time. Each time the Ministry of Health went in there and inspected Rest Haven Nursing Home, it indicated the problems were not significant until the last inspection after my phone call where they

indicated there were some problems with cleanliness but nothing terribly significant.

My question deals with the annual inspection which was carried out on January 4 and 5, 1984, when the nursing home inspection branch found 113 violations of the Nursing Homes Act. How does the minister expect any of us to have any kind of confidence in his nursing home inspection branch when for two years it has gone in there on complaints that have been specifically about uncleanness and food and those are now the subject of the 113 major violations under the nursing home inspection branch?

Why does it take two years to identify what one of the relatives of one of the residents in that home has been telling us and his ministry have been occurring now for two years? Why are there no charges against this nursing home when obviously it is flouting the law?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as I look at the clock once again, unfortunately I do not think I am going to have time to give a full and complete response to this question.

Mr. Foulds: Give it a shot.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not sure why the honourable member always waits until the very last minute of question period before raising questions that sound as serious as the one he has raised.

Mr. Foulds: Try for a short answer.

Mr. McClellan: Try answering instead of all of this smart-aleck stuff.

Mr. Speaker: Back to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member is well aware that I have taken significant steps to increase the enforcement capacity of the inspection branch of the ministry, including the secondment of a full-time crown prosecutor from the Ministry of the Attorney General to head up the prosecution of any offences.

I am sure the member at least will be willing to acknowledge that a careful review of the list of the infractions he is referring to will show they are of varying magnitude. In fact, some of them are of the nature that could well have arisen since previous inspection.

I have no reason to believe the staff in the inspection branch was in any way negligent in the earlier annual inspections, but I assure the member I will review in detail the inspection report and the nature of the infractions and report to him more fully on that question.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of Brampton, Eglinton, York East and Kenora, I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. Worton: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

This petition is signed by a constituent in Wellington South.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. McNeil: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned electors and residents of Elgin county and supporters of the St. Thomas Ebenezer Christian School society, respectfully petition for your support to redress a serious injustice in current educational policy and practice. The facts are simple.

"In the past five years alone, parents who send their children to independent schools have contributed \$1 billion for education in Ontario without receiving a cent for the education of their own children. In fact, they have had to bear a double burden through fees and contributions to their own independent schools.

"Furthermore, in a democratic and multi-cultural society, parents should have the right to send their children to schools of choice without a financial penalty. This is recognized partially in the case of Catholic families and with minor exceptions fully in the case of Franco-Ontarians. It should apply equally to all. Five provinces have now recognized the principle at least partially. When is Ontario going to do the same?"

This petition is signed by 131 people.

GAS BILLING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by a number of residents in the Woodstock and Brantford areas. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario Energy Board have Union Gas Ltd. stop its \$6.25 monthly fixed charge, which we consider an unfair way of collecting revenue. We would like it replaced with a minimum monthly charge such as the London Public Utilities Commission has for water, which is also piped to a meter. We would also like our monthly bills itemized."

Perhaps I will leave this with Mr. Speaker. He may want to talk to his former colleague who is now with Union Gas.

3:10 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LAND REGISTRATION REFORM ACT

Hon. Mr. Elgie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Gregory, first reading of Bill 66, An Act respecting Conveyancing Documents and Procedures and the Recording of Title to Real Property.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce for first reading today the Land Registration Reform Act, 1984, a piece of legislation first introduced in December 1983, before the Legislature prorogued.

As you are aware, my ministry has been concerned with updating one of Ontario's oldest institutions, its land registration system. This

legislation will authorize many of the proposals contained in the Ontario Law Reform Commission report which called for automation of the land registration system.

The Land Registration Reform Act provides for the computerization of record-keeping and property mapping and for the use of shorter, standardized documents for land transactions. A prototype automated office has already been established in Oxford county in the city of Woodstock. When the system has been proven, through monitoring and modification if necessary, it will be gradually introduced in all registration offices across the province.

Passage of this legislation will simplify the operation of the land registration system and reduce work load and delays for both staff and clients.

MILK AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 67, An Act to amend the Milk Act.

Motion agreed to.

GRAIN CORN MARKETING ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 68, An Act respecting the Marketing of Grain Corn.

Motion agreed to.

LIVE STOCK AND LIVE STOCK PRODUCTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 69, An Act to amend the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a few brief comments on the three pieces of legislation I have introduced.

The proposed Grain Corn Marketing Act provides for a compulsory refundable checkoff for producers of grain corn. The resulting funds will be used to help finance the activities of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association to advance the production and the marketing of grain corn.

The second bill I want to mention is of a housekeeping nature. The Milk Amendment Act would expand the power of the Milk Commission of Ontario to make regulations with the approval of cabinet and would enable all regulations made to milk products to be made under the Milk Act.

The third bill relates to the administration of the beef cattle financial protection plan. The main purpose of the Live Stock and Live Stock

Products Amendment Act is to permit the director of the livestock inspection branch to impose terms and conditions on the licence of a dealer in livestock and livestock products to better protect producers who sell to these dealers.

I am introducing this legislation in the hope of accomplishing these aims as expeditiously as possible.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Martel moved, seconded by Mr. Foulds, first reading of Bill 70, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to authorize the apportionment of school rates between public and separate schools in the case of a mixed marriage where the husband and wife own or lease rateable property jointly.

I was hoping the minister would introduce this.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply:

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I have a very lengthy opening statement. I assume that, as is our custom, we will deal with the estimates of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the controversial item, and then move on to the Office of the Premier.

Although it has only been five months since these estimates were approved with enthusiasm by the members of the House, I would like once again to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the government, my sincere best wishes to the Lieutenant Governor and my thanks to him and Mrs. Aird for the excellent way in which they have conducted their responsibilities.

Because there was some modest notice in the press related to increases in the estimates of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, I should point out there was an increase this year primarily related to bicentennial activities. The Lieutenant Governor takes justifiable pride in the efficiency with which his office is administered.

It is of note that in 1983 the number of guests received in the Lieutenant Governor's suite was some 18,000. That was up 80 per cent from the number in 1981. I know many members of the opposition have been with His Honour when he visited their communities. I am sure there is a very genuine feeling throughout this province as to how the Lieutenant Governor conducts his

responsibilities with dignity and with a real appreciation of the importance of the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Without adding many other descriptive terms I might use, I very simply extend to him and Mrs. Aird my appreciation and that of the government for the excellent way in which he conducts himself as Lieutenant Governor of this province.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I will join in the flattering remarks of the Premier (Mr. Davis) towards the Lieutenant Governor. My colleagues and I hold him in equally high regard.

With respect to any increases in his budget pertaining to bicentennial duties, I do not blame the Lieutenant Governor for them at all; it was the Premier who created the bicentennial this year and I do not want to hold the Lieutenant Governor out as an unwitting victim of the Premier's plans in that regard.

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: Would you keep a little order in the House, Mr. Chairman?

I have had the pleasant experience of attending with the Lieutenant Governor on many occasions. I have never seen him anything but completely charming, completely kind and completely himself, which is, of course, as someone who is filled with grace, charm and intelligence. I can think of no person who could represent Her Majesty better in this province. He is certainly unstinting in his devotion to his duties and I think all members in this great province are well served not only by His Honour but by Mrs. Aird as well.

Therefore, I am very happy to join in the magnanimous praise that I am sure will be forthcoming from all corners of this House. I think he needs the budget he has; it is money extremely well spent by the taxpayers of this province. I want to congratulate the federal government again on this magnificent appointment it has made as Her Majesty's representative in Ontario.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to join in this lovefest. I did not know the Lieutenant Governor before my election as leader of the New Democratic Party in this province, but I am delighted to say that I have come to know him rather well since that time.

Mr. Elston: The one bright spot in the member's career.

Mr. Rae: That is right. I would say it is one of the nicer things that has happened to me.

The Lieutenant Governor has performed a difficult job with a tremendous amount of

dignity. I would like to recount an occasion on which I attended with the Lieutenant Governor. There were not a lot of people there, not a lot of press there. It was a special event that he himself sponsored at Variety Village, an athletic day, the Annual Lieutenant Governor's Games for Handicapped Children.

The Lieutenant Governor was in a great deal of pain with his back, as he is from time to time. He spent the entire day with the kids, with the families, with the parents. It was not something for which he would get a great deal of public credit, but it was something he obviously felt very deeply about himself, and as somebody who has been involved in that particular charity I want to pay tribute to the Lieutenant Governor for handling himself with that kind of feeling.

We were all moved, I know, when the Lieutenant Governor completed his speech from the throne. If I may say so, one of the few things in the speech from the throne—I think the only thing—that came close to moving me was at the very end, when he used sign language to convey the end of the speech.

As members know, he has spent a great deal of time working with the deaf. He has taken it on as a special interest and it is really marvellous that the Lieutenant Governor has taken the time, spending a certain number of hours every week trying to learn this language and now obviously coming close to mastering it after a couple of years.

He has made it a special project and is taking the time to do it without a great deal of public fanfare and without anybody paying an enormous amount of press attention but because he felt it was something he could do as a Lieutenant Governor to focus attention on a group of people he felt were being ignored by society.

This is an indication of the kind of person we have in that office. We are very lucky we have him. Whenever I meet with the Lieutenant Governor, first of all he knows who I am, which is always refreshing; he is one of the select 25 per cent. He is somebody of great political wisdom, and in private conversation he is of tremendous frankness with respect to the political situation among all three parties. He is somebody on whose advice I rely in many respects.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The member cannot blame him for that.

Mr. Rae: I will take everybody in.

He deserves a great deal of credit for the distinction and the manner in which he has conducted himself. I am certain we want to suggest the amount of money allocated for him is

satisfactory to us. If he wants more, we would even be prepared to consider that. I am sure the Premier would as well.

I also want to congratulate Mrs. Aird, who has always handled her responsibilities with great dignity and with tremendous attention to the people she meets. She has to meet hundreds, indeed thousands, of people every week and she always takes the time to listen to and learn from those people.

We can be really proud we have had a Lieutenant Governor who has gone all over the province. He accompanied my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) up to the very far reaches of northern Ontario. He has been to places where no Lieutenant Governor has been before and has always handled himself with great dignity. It is important we have in this assembly a representative of the Queen of whom all of us can be very proud and of whom Her Majesty can be proud as well.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, I have my annual hobby-horse; it is not just television, as Mr. Hoy might say.

A number of years ago when we had the select committee on the fourth and fifth reports of the Ontario Commission on the Legislature, I was one of those who came to the conclusion that the Lieutenant Governor should have a residence, as is the case in most provinces in Canada. Not that we eye his quarters with envy and hope we might get a chunk of them—

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is part of your motivation.

Mr. Martel: That was not part of the motivation at all. I do think it is time. I have been to a number of the Canadian Parliamentary Association meetings. It seems to me when we go to other provinces and the Lieutenant Governor hosts something for all the parliamentarians across this country, or for the many other functions he does host, he should have appropriate facilities to do so.

I know why we lost the official residence of the former Lieutenant Governor. I think it was Turnip George who thought it did not belong in this province.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was Mitch Hepburn.

Mr. Martel: It was Hepburn. He sold it.

Mr. Nixon: He used it as a hospital for veterans.

Mr. Martel: Yes, he cut out everything, including cars. I do not know how leaders take

cars after his big cutting edge went on and cut out everything.

I say to the Premier I think it is time that matter be taken up seriously. Here is the largest province in numbers and in wealth—

Mr. Peterson: Is the member trying to sell him a house?

Mr. Martel: No, I do not want to sell him a house, or even get a commission on it.

I suggest it would be rather more appropriate. If one looks at the number of functions he hosts, it would be rather nice in the summer to do some of those in a garden, giving him some flexibility, rather than the facilities here. I hope an office would remain so he could file papers and so on, and do the functions he has to do. I sincerely mean it when I say it is time we had an official residence, as they do in most provinces and as they do in Ottawa, for the Lieutenant Governor. Do we have to be 11th in everything? It seems to be the case in Ontario.

Mr. Peterson: Is the member saying we are 10th and last?

Mr. Martel: In most things, but 11th in this one. Probably the Northwest Territories are further advanced than we are.

I am very serious in saying we need a residence. I realize money is short, but I am told the Premier can come up with—how much money was it?—for the speed skating oval when Gaetan Boucher was here. Apparently, no one else but the Premier knew he was about to announce that funding was available.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Three million.

Mr. Martel: Yes, \$3 million. I am told people in the ministry over there did not even know it was coming. It was a splendid shock for them the day the Premier announced it. He may have done it because Mr. Boucher was here and had done so well. If we can come up with that kind of money for that sort of activity, surely we should have an official residence for one of the highest posts in this province.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Would the member settle for a jet to fly him around?

Mr. Martel: No, not a jet.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) has raised this issue before. I am always intrigued that he would raise it. Some days I feel encouraged that he has. I guess he feels there may be a first minister at some time in the future of this country who may decide, as a first minister did with Mr. Schreyer,

that a person of the member's political philosophy would some day be an ideal—

Mr. Martel: You are making me the president of Inco, so it does not matter.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is true. Anyway, I am intrigued. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), there are very few, if any, who would be a better Lieutenant Governor than the present Lieutenant Governor.

I do look to the gentleman who is on his geographic right and philosophical left on some issues and would say there are many who would feel he would be almost as good at some point in time.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member expressed his view on the residence. That is what concerned me.

I would just say to the member for Sudbury East that I have raised this with His Honour, not in any definitive sense at all, as is not my custom; I always raise issues in a very definitive way with people. I sense that if he had a preference, on a personal basis, he would prefer the existing arrangement. That does not mean it is cast in stone or anything of that nature.

I should also point out that when Mr. Boucher was here there was some discussion of a skating oval to be located in Brampton. Brampton was the initial suggestion and somebody said perhaps in Sudbury. I approached it in the context that a redesign of a possible domed stadium might contain the skating oval.

I want to assure the member for Sudbury East that I am not aware of any, shall we say, announcement for a speedskating oval, except to make the observation that the suggestion obviously has merit. I was intrigued at the number of Canadians who, when we did get a couple of medals in that area, so rapidly identified themselves with his accomplishments. I guess it is not unusual for people to do that sort of thing and then discover there was not a skating oval of this nature in the entire province.

I would be very surprised if those people involved in that aspect of amateur support did not approach the government at some point to suggest the development of such a facility here.

I would assure the honourable member that irrespective of potential geographic location, I would be very surprised if the minister responsible was not quite sympathetic to that.

Mr. Rae: If there was an Olympic medal for skating sideways, you could win it yourself.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is better than going backwards.

Vote 101 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET OFFICE

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, as is my custom, I have a very lengthy opening statement which my staff has spent weeks in preparing. I have decided in my usual fashion to give members opposite the opportunity to raise those issues that will be directly related to the Cabinet Office and the Office of the Premier. As has been my tradition, I will make notes of the various observations, try not to interject too often and perhaps sum up when the estimates are reaching their conclusion.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I would like to persuade the Premier that his tradition of saying nothing until the end, talking out the clock and leaving us with nothing is not very constructive in the estimates procedure. I know how he has handled it in the past. He says nothing, he tries to constrain himself and then he takes the last 15 or 20 minutes, or an hour if that should be necessary, and tells us nothing. We end up after five hours or so no further ahead than when we started.

There are a variety of ways, depending on the personality and temperament of various ministers and/or critics, to have a meaningful discussion of public policy or just have it as one more waste of time. Because I have the floor, I could choose to speak for an hour or two and harangue the government and then sit down, pass it to my friend the leader of the New Democratic Party, go around and nothing happens.

I would invite the Premier to perhaps take a new approach and use this occasion to engage in a discussion about public policy and some of the approaches of his government. I invite him to answer when I ask him various questions because there are a number of things that concern me at the moment, long-term things as well as short-term things that would benefit from the rare occasion when the three leaders in this House can engage in a discussion about certain selected topics. Obviously the leader of the New Democratic Party has his own agenda and I would look forward to participating in that as well.

Let us take a little different approach rather than just keeping it all to the end and having nothing happen, because I do not want to have to

read Hansard for the last few years to show there is no meaningful discussion, just a series of speeches and/or yelling at one another, and/or accusatory remarks that take us nowhere.

Question period does not suffice as a discussion ground for some of the important issues of the day. One thing I have in mind and would like to lead with is a discussion of the Grange commission. I invite discussion on the subject and would try to persuade honourable members of my point of view. My friend the leader of the New Democratic Party may also have some points on this issue, and others may feel as I do.

We called for the creation of that commission; I am not denying any responsibility because we had a unique situation that frankly none of us was able to cope with very well.

We knew the police had gone in and done perhaps the best they could, perhaps not the best they could; that is something yet to be determined. Here we were as legislators feeling our public responsibility was to get at the truth, perhaps no one thinking out well enough the rights and responsibilities of some of the individuals.

I am sure it inspired no particular happiness in anyone's heart watching the proceedings of phase 1 of that inquiry: the uncertainty on the part of the counsel, the various players involved, the references to the courts and, indeed, even the confusion of the commissioner in that regard. I am not criticizing the commissioner because I do believe he is an absolutely first-rate judge dealing as best he can with the uncertainties or the vicissitudes of his own mandate.

That basically has been resolved by the courts at this point and phase 1 is over, so I would like to leave that behind us at the moment and discuss, if I may, phase 2 of the inquiry.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, no. I do not think that is so.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier is very welcome to speak.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. I do not think that is the case.

Mr. Peterson: In terms of the hearings if not in terms of the final report, obviously; it may go on and have various appeals and all that kind of thing.

I invite the Premier's comments on this because he is a lawyer and is sensitive to these matters. The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has not been here in the last three weeks to deal with these kinds of issues. As the chief executive officer of Ontario, it ultimately comes down to the Premier and his judgement on this matter and

I am going to invite him to engage in a discussion of this whole matter.

I want to tell him of my concerns, then perhaps he can share his with me. One of the problems in drafting the terms of reference in any royal commission is to try to predict all the vicissitudes and uncertainties that go down the pipe. Let us be charitable at the moment and say the originally drafted mandate did not take into account all the things that have arisen in that case and have caused a great deal of harm and grief to a lot of people.

A constituent of mine with a little boy who was going in for heart surgery recounted to me in graphic detail the nightmares of her child, the screams in the night, from listening to the television on the ward. He would say to his mother, "Mommy, there is a baby-killer loose in this hospital." That is a very difficult issue to handle. I do not have a simple answer.

She wrote to the commissioner and the commissioner responded in an extremely sensitive and thoughtful way, recognizing, of course, ultimately our responsibility is to ascertain the truth, because we cannot let 30 or 40 deaths that have not been accounted for go without using every instrument in society to try to determine the truth in the matter and at the same time try as best we can to protect individual rights in the circumstances.

3:40 p.m.

By and large, that is behind us. I want to deal with phase 2 and draw the Premier out on this question. It seems to me that phase 2 is different in a number of ways. It is a determination of the role of the crown and its various agents—the Solicitor General, the Attorney General or the prosecutors, as well as the police. These are public officials engaged in a public duty.

The Premier will be aware that many reputations have been irreparably damaged in this discussion. One hopes the various parties will get over this in the not too distant future and the harm that has been done to some people will not be permanent. In this House we cannot be the judge of that circumstance at the present time.

When the original terms were drawn, and of course we did not have access to participating in the drawing of those terms of reference, we asked that there be a commitment to make sure there was an open, accountable, public inquiry into the public officials who conducted that whole investigation. It may turn out that one of the problems, if there was a crime, a unique crime, is it may have been a crime that is undetectable by modern forensic medicine, with the present state

of the police force. Perhaps there are certain things in this world that are going to go unknown.

I do not know the answer to that. I desperately hope we can find out why the conventional system failed in these circumstances and that we are doing what we can to build an artificial construct or a new, unique way of dealing with these circumstances through the royal commission that may or may not come up with the truth. I desperately hope it does, given the uncertainty at the present time. I am sure the Premier reads the papers. I am sure if he does not read the papers, the news is reported back to him. If he does not see television, he knows what is reported back to him because he has staff monitoring these things for him. He knows there is uncertainty at the present time.

Very frankly, one of the things that disturbs me is the deportment of some of the crown counsel, some of the questions they asked in phase 1. Perhaps we can let bygones be bygones, but they are the government's representatives in court. They are the representatives of the Attorney General, now suggesting that to go on and name names and look at the conduct of the public officials in the pursuit of the public duties is not right in the circumstances.

I would like to persuade the Premier to use his good offices in the absence of the Attorney General to make sure we have a full and open inquiry into the conduct of the public officials in this matter.

We have a choice of letting the commissioner go on with some insecurity, not knowing exactly what his responsibilities are. The Premier has heard it said many times that all we need is direction. If it does not come through the Attorney General's counsel, it comes directly from the Attorney General, from the cabinet or through an order in council and it should offer direction saying, "Here is what we want from you."

One must respect at all times that a royal commission is an artificial construction. It is completely and thoroughly a child of the order in council that creates it and also gives it its parameters and is subject only to various acts that pertain to that. They give it life and scope and can cut off that life when they so want to.

Given the uncertainty, my advice to the Premier now is that we can let the thing drag on, go to the courts and on and on with various different kinds of appeals and uncertainty, or clear up the terms of reference immediately. I would ask the Premier in the House why would he not avail himself of that responsibility now in

discussion with the various law officers of the crown and his cabinet colleagues, knowing what he originally had in mind, or presumably he does, to take the opportunity to clear the air in that matter so they can proceed with phase 2 of the inquiry.

I would invite the Premier's comments on that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, if the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) would review Hansard on the estimates over the past number of years, he would find that while I make the offer at the outset to listen to as many questions and observations as possible, there are a number of other members besides himself and the member for York South (Mr. Rae) who wish to ask questions. I recall getting questions from the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) and a number of others and I like to make time available. That is why I suggested I would reserve my comments.

If the Leader of the Opposition wishes me to comment on the several items he raises in the course of his observations, it has never taken much to persuade me to say a few words and I will do my best to accommodate him. I assume he has a list of several, of which this is the first, and I will give him the benefit of my views.

I expressed my views as head of government on Thursday afternoon last week or whatever date it was. I should point out to the Leader of the Opposition that the Attorney General is in Ottawa today. I expect he will be here tomorrow, and he may wish to direct questions to him.

I would like the Leader of the Opposition to understand there is something of a process and that the Attorney General is very directly involved in the establishment of a royal commission of this nature and very involved in terms of the advice he gives to me and to members of cabinet. Once again, I am reluctant to prolong this discussion. I do not know how the Leader of the Opposition feels, but I have a reluctance to express personal opinions with the royal commission under way at present.

I pointed out last week and feel very strongly that while the Leader of the Opposition may feel there should be some alteration to or redefinition of the specific terms of reference of this royal commission, I also sense that if it were a different kind of royal commission and the Leader of the Opposition felt we should not in any way interfere, he would not be reluctant to say so.

I understand that, but I also think it is fair to say and appropriate to point out, and I am sure the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) would agree if he were here, being one who has taken a

long interest in the judicial process, that there is a judicial process. A royal commission is not like, say, a committee of the Legislature. There are very definite statutory provisions contained within the act. There is the due process that cannot be ignored in all these issues.

As I said to the Leader of the Opposition last week, I do not think any terms of reference on any public inquiry will necessarily preclude the debate that goes on between legal counsel at that commission of inquiry related to their responsibilities to their clients or that would preclude, on occasion, certain references being made to the courts as to what was being discussed or how it was being discussed at a commission of inquiry. That is not unique, nor can I sense any terms of reference that could be drafted on any subject that should or ever would preclude it. It would be a very sad day if that were the case. That is not part of the judicial process.

I am not prepared to start exercising certain judgements. I am not suggesting that the Leader of the Opposition is, although he is getting fairly close to exercising certain personal points of view, and maybe as Leader of the Opposition he has that luxury. I do not think it would be appropriate for the head of government or the Attorney General to offer personal observations on some aspects of this commission of inquiry.

The Leader of the Opposition asked me whether I am concerned. Of course I am concerned. I am concerned about a number of aspects. We all are. I do not think it is totally logical to discuss redefining terms of reference if the existing terms of reference permit the commissioner who has this responsibility from conducting this in the way—

Mr. Peterson: They don't know—

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, the Leader of the Opposition should read the terms of reference. I assure him that no matter how they might be redefined, if we are asked to do so, and to my knowledge we have not been asked to do so—

Mr. Peterson: I am asking you to do it. You created it.

3:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is fine, sure. Yes, we established the royal commission. I have just heard from the Leader of the Opposition, as a lawyer with his QC and his, I read, Team Peterson. He spent a lot of time learning about the judicial process. That was in the Team Peterson sketch. I have not practised law now for 26 years, but I do know something about it. It is

not as simplistic as he says for us to establish or redefine the terms of reference. Before they reach phase 2 it may be the commissioner will come and say, "I want further definition."

I know the Leader of the Opposition has read the terms of reference. He has studied them carefully. He has had considered legal opinion about them as to what they mean. He might even quietly tell me who gave him those legal opinions. My guess is the legal opinion said there really are very few restrictions that the terms of reference per se would bring about. I think he would find that is the case.

The concern of the leader of the New Democratic Party was that phase 2 would be sort of conducted in the same way as phase 1. I think that was the general impression as to the police forces, the investigating officers, etc., that there would be the same scrutiny. I think that was the terminology used. I forget exactly what was said. I do not believe the leader of the New Democratic Party was looking for a redefinition of the terms of reference.

I am just at a bit at a loss as to how I can help the Leader of the Opposition. As he fully acknowledged, there was a lot of rhetoric at the time. We listened carefully to some of his speeches about the need to establish this commission. The commission has been established. I do not think anybody who knew some of the concerns expected that this royal commission would move ahead smoothly or without certain personalities being involved. He knew that when he called for it. He had to have known that some of this was going to happen.

Mr. Conway: That representatives of the Attorney General would say in public that some witnesses should take a truth serum?

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the member wants to provoke me into—no one anticipated—

Mr. Conway: I did not know the Attorney General's representatives were going to talk about a truth serum.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Nor did anyone else.

I think the member knew, because I assume he was part of the advice given to his leader, that one could not have a commission of inquiry of this kind without personalities being involved and witnesses being cross-examined. He knew that when he advised his leader.

Mr. Conway: Of course I did.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly. Then I am just as—

Mr. Conway: But I did not assume the Attorney General's lawyers would be talking about truth serum.

Mr. Peterson: Which is his emanation.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) wants to make a speech on this subject, I would be delighted to sit down and listen.

Mr. Conway: Just on a supplementary, if I might—

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is no supplementary.

Mr. Conway: Just on that point. Because the first minister has raised the question, Mr. Chairman, I want to say—

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Peterson: He invited him to speak.

Mr. Conway: The Premier has invited a comment. He is going to get a short one from me to this effect: while I expected that there would be a variety of developments at the commission, I did not—and I want to be absolutely clear about this—expect that lawyers for my government would in the full glare of the television lights invite the question that some witnesses might submit to truth serum.

I think that is an extraordinary development under any circumstances and that is the kind of exceptionality to which I make a personal reference. If it upsets the first minister, then I am very sorry, but I did not expect that representatives of the Attorney General's department would be so bold and exceptional as to suggest that. I note that the learned legal beagle from Cambridge, the Progressive Conservative member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow), gives a bipartisan quality to my concern.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think there are a number of issues. Before the member for Renfrew North interjected in a quiet unassuming fashion, as is his custom, what I said, relating it to the specific activities of a particular individual who is involved in part of the process, was that was not the point I was making to his leader.

His leader said, perhaps while the member was still outside, that the reputations of certain individuals obviously had been impacted by this inquiry. All I am saying is that irrespective of what an individual, whether counsel for the commission, counsel for the individuals or whoever he may be, may have done, I do not think anybody who thought this through right from the beginning assumed this commission would succeed in accomplishing its objectives—and hopefully it will—without the reputations of certain individuals being part of this

process. Surely when the member advised his leader to call so enthusiastically for this inquiry, he must have known that some of this would take place. He must have known; I am sure he did.

Mr. Conway: I had more faith in the Attorney General's department than I should have had.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think the member is confusing the two issues, I really do. I say that with great respect.

Mr. Peterson: You thought through all this confusion. Is that what you are saying?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I am not saying that at all.

Mr. Peterson: You cannot have it both ways.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not trying to have it any way; I am not trying to have it one way or the other. I am trying to explain to the Leader of the Opposition that a process has been established by order in council at the strenuous urgings of the members opposite, I remind him, in which we have a justice of the court who is in charge with certain statutory responsibilities.

As I say, I do follow this—

Mr. Conway: You talk about our staff. Read that note carefully.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am just glancing at a note here that is partially related and partially unrelated. I said earlier—the member was not here for this discussion—when his leader said it was going into phase 2, that actually my recollection is that phase 1 is not finished, that arguments have not yet been heard on phase 1 and that they are not proceeding immediately into phase 2. My recollection is that there is to be probably a two- or three-week adjournment between the conclusion of phase 1 and the beginning of phase 2. I may be wrong on that recollection and I am quite prepared to be corrected.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier is discussing the rules for phase 2. There is a great deal of uncertainty. He is getting certain positions put forward by the Attorney General's representatives, his own crown people, and other interests are being expressed, obviously, by counsel for the different witnesses and the different interest groups there. But they are in the process of attempting to establish how they are going to handle phase 2, what they can do and what they cannot do. I am just bringing the Premier up to date.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am always delighted to have the Leader of the Opposition bring me up to date. Unlike him, I need all the help I can get.

However, my impression is that phase 1 is not completed. I just reiterate to him once again that I am delighted to hear any other views he has, but this government is not going to interfere in the conduct of this commission unless the commissioner wants us to do so with respect to a redefinition of the terms of reference. There has been some discussion of this and, as I say once again, as of two o'clock today—I cannot tell the member as of four o'clock—I do not believe we have had it.

I would be delighted to hear any constructive suggestions the Leader of the Opposition may make with respect to this commission, which was established—once again I remind him—after very strenuous urging on his part.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, since the Leader of the Liberal Party was kind enough to say he wanted me to be involved in this discussion and since the Premier has, as he has done on a fairly regular basis, attributed views to me, I would like to put on the record and explain, since I am here, just what our views are as a party and what our concern has been from the time the tragic events at the hospital became public knowledge.

My concern throughout the piece—and I am concerned about the terms of reference because I do not think they speak directly enough to this problem—has been that the purpose, in my view, of a public inquiry of the Grange type, whose establishment we called for, was specifically to be able to answer the question of how that number of deaths could have occurred at the hospital over such an extended period of time without the public being informed of it and without the public authorities being advised of it. That to me is the central question.

4 p.m.

I have never taken the view and do not believe for an instant that the royal commission is going to be able or should be able or was established to find out who did it. The royal commission, in blunt terms, is not a whodunnit. One of the great mistakes that has taken place in the public focus on this commission and in much of what has gone on at the commission has been the sense that somehow this was the job of the commission. It has never been the job of the commission.

For anybody—counsel for any of the parties to the commission—to even suggest for a moment that is in any sense the purpose of the commission or something to come out of the commission is wrong. It is an affront to our sense of justice and our sense of what it is that the commission should be all about.

What the commission should be all about is trying to determine the conduct of people in public authority and how it is that a number of deaths were allowed to occur over such a period of time without being reported.

My concern has been the focus and public attention that very naturally attached to the questioning of a number of the nurses who were involved in the cardiac ward. My concern, and I think it is a concern that has been shared by a great many people, is that far too much attention has been focused on determining the conduct of those individuals when an inquiry cannot be used to make any assertions of fact with respect to them or to their degree of responsibility.

I expressed concerns at the very beginning when the royal commission was established, the day the Attorney General announced the terms of reference. I asked a specific question—I am going by memory; I do not have the Hansard in front of me—of the Attorney General:

“Why is there nothing in the terms of reference which refers specifically to the conduct of the responsible authorities in the hospital and the responsible authorities within the police and elsewhere with respect to the question of how long people in authority either were aware or should have been aware of an extraordinary number of deaths occurring at the hospital without a public investigation of some kind having been carried out and initiated?”

That has been our concern from the very outset.

Since this is a discussion amongst three leaders, I will say to the leader of the Liberal Party that I think I know where he is coming from and I appreciate what he is saying, but I am a little baffled if he honestly thinks that a clarification from the government of Ontario is somehow going to prevent any one of a number of counsel at any point in the inquiry from objecting to any set of questions or demanding a clarification from the Divisional Court.

I say quite seriously that I do not think any of us can invent terms of reference that are not going to be subject at any stage, as they have been up until now, to legal challenge. We cannot invent any kind of process that is going to take away legal rights from the parties that naturally pertain to those parties at all times. We cannot invent those things. I do not think that is what he is arguing we should be doing, but it seems to me that is implicit in some of his demands for clarification.

I will be very blunt about the other concern I have. There are a number of individuals at the

lower level of the hospital hierarchy who, frankly, have been through the mill. As the commissioner himself said, what was a public inquiry has become a very public inquiry and is now a very very public inquiry.

I think I am speaking for a lot of people and our real sense of concern for what has happened when we hear, “Oh well, now we have to change the terms of reference; we have to stop this questioning,” just at the point where we are beginning to ask questions of those in public authority who have never been asked real questions before.

I remind members that the Dubbin inquiry looked specifically into the question of the administrative routine of the hospital. When the questions were asked of the people in the hospital with respect to what happened on the cardiac ward, those questions were asked off the record, in people’s offices. They were not subject to the same rules of public inquiry as is happening with the Grange royal commission.

I do not think I am stepping over the boundaries the Premier has drawn, but I think there is a very real perception by the public that one set of rules has applied to those in authority and that up to this point another set of rules has applied to those who have no power in the system.

It would be very wrong if that perception were allowed to strengthen by changing the terms of reference because we know we are going to be getting objections from police counsel, since Mr. Percival has said, “I am going to object if there are any questions because there is a civil suit going on.” It would be a very real mistake if the terms of reference were changed in that way.

I want to say to the Premier that I do not think it would necessarily be a mistake if the terms of reference were amended to incorporate the question which, if I may say so, we put to the Attorney General the day the commission was announced. Specifically, we asked the commission to focus on the question of how that number of deaths could have been allowed to occur over such a long period of time. The time frame concerns me immensely, the length of time this tragedy was allowed to carry on without apparently the full force of public authority being brought down to bring an end to those events.

I do not think it is any exaggeration. I do not think I am any different from any other member. I have watched and listened to the proceedings with an enormous amount of concern. I have debated internally on what is appropriate for me

to say as a leader of a party about an inquiry that is ongoing.

I have some concerns, and I have voiced them today as far as I am going to. I can see some merit in changing the terms of reference if that allows us to focus specifically on the matter I have suggested. But I would be concerned if anyone thought that by changing the terms of reference, we were thereby shortening the process. That is not necessarily the case.

It would be very naïve if any of us thought that was going to be the case with respect to the number of very highly paid and very distinguished legal counsel who are there on a daily basis looking out for the interests of their clients. I do not think for a moment that any terms of reference devised by this Legislature or by the Attorney General are going to stop those counsel from taking steps to protect their clients.

I would like to make one last point on Mr. Percival's point throughout the piece recently. I am a little amazed that he waited until now to tell the commissioner he was going to object to questions because there was a civil suit ongoing between Susan Nelles and the police. She also wanted to involve the office of the Attorney General but was not allowed to for technical reasons.

I am a little amazed that he waited until now to tell us this when we had a previous reference, when it would not have been difficult to combine the two references to the court and to do it all in one go. I am a little amazed he took his time about it, if I may be quite blunt about it.

If he persists in this approach of saying the civil suit precludes any questions from being asked, I would say to him that is a question that should be resolved by a court if that is what he insists, because I think he is wrong. I am not a QC, and I do not know, but my assumption is that a public inquiry has pretty broad terms and that a private suit between an individual and somebody else should not preclude the inquiry from doing its job.

I would like to see that question resolved. I do not think this Legislature can resolve it if Mr. Percival is determined at any time to take the entire process to court. I do not think anything this Legislature does is going to resolve it, short of a full-scale retreat.

I am not prepared to agree or to argue or to counsel that we should agree to that kind of retreat in the face of objections from the police. The police should be subject to the same kind of scrutiny, the same kind of inquiry, the same

deliberations and, if I may say so, the same degree of publicity that has already occurred.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I did not presume to try to remember all the member for York South said on Thursday last week. I think I was fairly close in terms of his desire that "the conduct of the police authorities, etc., should be under the same degree of scrutiny." I think that was the phrase he used and repeated here today.

I have nothing further to add. After listening to the member for York South, I would observe that, on the basis of his speech, he is probably as entitled to his QC as some others who have it and who have also commented on the subject.

I do not know why the honourable member should be so amazed. I never cease to be amazed at what some legal counsel may do at some point in the course of a trial or a royal commission. I have stopped being amazed at what anyone might do, particularly lawyers.

4:10 p.m.

Without getting into the substance again, I apologize to the leader of the third party, but I am not comfortable in terms of my responsibilities in commenting in any detail on what is going on at a royal commission. He may feel comfortable, but I do not. I am concerned about the process and about what might be construed from what I may say as to how that might impact upon the royal commission itself. I may be wrong in that, but it is a view I hold strongly.

I point out for no other purpose than being a nonlawyer, that I listened to what the member for York South said, not as it related to—I do not say this covers it—the length of time it took etc., but in terms of the investigation. Clause 4 is simply "to inquire into, determine and report on the circumstances surrounding the investigation, institution and prosecution of charges arising out of the deaths of the above-mentioned four infants."

Mr. Rae: No, that relates to the—

Hon. Mr. Davis: That relates to one aspect of the concern the member expressed. I am just glancing at the other terms of reference as to some reasons for the length of time it took to have these come to public attention. I think it is obvious that has been dealt with to a certain extent. I do not know what the conclusions will be; I would not prejudge that.

I do apologize to the Leader of the Opposition, but I cannot help him any more as to this royal commission. The Attorney General may have some further views he would like to express as the chief law officer of the crown, but I learned

early in my public career not to get involved in offering legal opinions.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Chairman, obviously we are not going to move the Premier any further, but I am sure there is no question that every one of us watching this situation would cover it in a variety of different ways. What I am trying to do is to offer constructive suggestions as to how to remove some of the problems from the second part of it.

Bygones are bygones at this stage. We could have second-guessed that situation. There is no doubt the Premier is quite right that we fell for the situation as did a lot of other people. The notable legal counsel Edward Greenspan said, "The police have shot their bolt," and now it was time for a new look by a royal commission.

The first phase is basically over with and any harm done by the publicity has been done. We know the judge does not have the power to name names; that court decision is being used by certain counsel to argue with the commissioner that he cannot name names in the second phase. That is my point. That could be cleared up now and the Premier should say that because they are public officials in the pursuit of public duties, they can name names in the second phase.

Mr. Rae: But that does not deal with the lawsuit problem.

Mr. Peterson: I think it does. I do not think there is a major problem in that regard. Because it is an artificial construction, the creature of an order in council plus the Public Inquiries Act, I do not believe that in the circumstances there is any legal impediment. The whole issue at stake is the conduct of public officials, and I cannot see that any lawsuit is going to interfere with that. It is counsel representing various parts of the government who are advancing these arguments. What concerns me is that the Premier could instruct those counsels—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think in fairness one has to be fairly careful when he says "representing various parts of the government." The government is not the Metropolitan Toronto Police.

Mr. Peterson: The various groups take instructions from the Premier and others, and there is close association.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Let us try to stick to the facts on this issue. The Metropolitan Toronto Police is not part of the government.

Mr. Peterson: Is the Premier prepared to take responsibility for some of his representatives there or is he not? On the one hand he says he is

not, and on the other hand he says he is somehow responsible.

Let me try to clear this thing up as I see it. I do not see any legal impediment to clarifying the rule and what he expects that thing to do. He has created it. He can sit back at a distance and say: "I created it, but I created a mess and I have no idea what is going to go on. That is okay. We did not clearly anticipate it." If the Premier looks at what the counsel are saying, they are saying to the Attorney General, "Direct us." The commissioner is virtually saying: "Tell us what you want us to do. We have been created and we do not know exactly what we want to do."

I am saying that the Premier, in the interest of determining the facts as outlined by the leader of the New Democratic Party, who as I understand his position—and do not let me misrepresent it—wants a clear determination of the public role, coroners, why it was not reported, the police investigation, why premature charges were made and all of these things.

In the efficiency of the existing legal and police structure to solve or investigate problems like this there is a big issue at stake. I am saying to the Premier that in the interests of the truth, we must redirect this royal commission to make sure it has full power to go ahead.

Rather than watch the thing go on with legal hassle after legal hassle, I am saying the confusion that developed in the first phase does not have to develop in the second phase if the Premier directs it properly. I am not asking him to sit back in the weeds and make comments about it; I am not asking him to call people con men as a trial is going on; I am not asking him to do a running play by play of his personal opinion of the conduct of various people.

I am asking the Premier to take responsibility for his various emanations, like some of the crown counsel; I am asking him to define the rules, to tell them clearly and specifically what he wants and what we all want and then proceed with dispatch. It is quite a simple request.

We Liberals sometimes learn from our mistakes of the past, but the Premier tends to go on perpetuating his mistakes of the past. If it was a mistake—and let us not argue that now—at least clear it up for the second phase. I am asking the Premier that only.

Perhaps I have not put my case very well; perhaps I have not explained it. I do not see any legal constraints. I am not asking the Premier to descend into the forum. I am asking him, frankly, to show leadership and to get to the truth of the matter in a clear way with dispatch.

The Premier stands here and says, "Peterson, you called for the thing for months." I am prepared to take my responsibility for that; I did and I am not embarrassed about it. If he wants me to take responsibility for it, as he appears to do, then he should give me the power to change it and make it appropriate in the circumstances. Others have called for it; this is not just a naive call from the plains by us. Other thoughtful observers of this scene from a variety of different quarters have said, "Direct us, lead us and we will go on and ascertain the truth as best we can."

I do not think this is contrary to any of the existing common law; I do not think it is contrary to the Public Inquiries Act. If the Premier is worried that redefining the role of the royal commission would be an admission of a mistake in the first place—perhaps that is what he is worried about—then I say to him, "Do not worry about it." I do not think anyone in this House will criticize him for that. We think it would be a courageous and intelligent use of the power he has to go on and to help get to the truth in this circumstance.

That is what we are asking. We are trying to be constructive now, as we have been in the past, in solving this matter. This is what I am asking.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I really cannot offer a great deal more except that I do confess to some measure of confusion. I will not prolong the discussion, except to make the observation that I think the Leader of the Opposition is approaching this in a somewhat simplistic fashion. It is not as simple—

Mr. Peterson: You always do.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not interrupt you.

I am just telling the Leader of the Opposition that certain processes are involved in the judicial process for this royal commission. Any alteration in the terms of reference, no matter how it was redrafted, would not preclude counsel at the inquiry taking a position related to the terms of reference or some other process that is going on and taking a stated case to the Divisional Court. That is not going to stop it.

Sometimes in these situations it can be painful and it can be prolonged to get at what we would like to see them get at. I think the member is perhaps misleading himself in assuming that some alteration in wording is going to make it easier or is necessarily going to make it more expeditious. All of us would like to see it move more rapidly; no one is comfortable. But I think just to say that cabinet can change some of the words and this will all fall into place is wishful thinking.

Mr. Peterson: Listen to the lawyers.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, there is no consensus among the legal fraternity. Even on television one does not sense any great consensus down there before the commission.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how you want to proceed with this. I think it is very healthy, actually, and more convenient for the members of the House if we deal with the Premier's estimate topic by topic.

I do not want to step into what the other leaders have in mind, but I really would like to draw the Premier's attention to the words from the commissioner himself that have been broadcast on the nightly news, when he almost seems to be in some agony as he is responding to the point put to him by counsel, Mr. Percival and others. He is the one who is talking about amended terms of reference or an approach to the Divisional Court on a stated case. That is the alternative in his mind.

In the Premier's answer a few days ago, he said he had not been approached by the commissioner asking for a revision in the terms. I do not think that solves it, because we do have people down there who are directly in the employ of the chief law officer of the crown. We cannot put the responsibility for the problems on another jurisdiction. After all, the whole process is one that is established on the authority of the Lieutenant Governor in Council and I do not have to tell the Premier that.

The thing that troubles me is that, having gone through much of phase 1, and we can argue about whether it is completed or not, and having heard the public testimony, much of it very painful indeed, but at least that is all on the record, now we approach the other aspect as to the responsibility of how the case was conducted by the police and how charges were brought, which is not the responsibility of only the police. The Premier knows that. He and his colleagues certainly share that responsibility and may have to carry all that responsibility.

If there is any problem with getting the facts out about that, we are talking about a different type of situation entirely. We are not talking about a world-class heinous crime. We are talking about public affairs. I do not blame the lawyer for the police for objecting when evidence may lead to some criticism being directed at individuals who did not do their job the way some person, maybe even the commissioner, found it to be so. The commissioner even talked about it in those terms.

As I understand royal commissions, particularly now with the Divisional Court judgement imposed upon it, names shall not be named, what we want are the facts. As I recall, royal commissions are never quick jobs; occasionally they are pretty quick. When the report finally comes down, in many instances the classic question from the opposition to the government is, "Will disciplinary action be taken or will charges be laid?" That is on the basis of the facts as they are brought forward. It is not for the commissioner to say who is guilty, but it is his job to elicit the facts.

No doubt when he makes his report, particularly having to do with how the case was handled, it is just possible that certain criticisms may be directed at certain aspects of crown offices and maybe at certain people who have positions in those crown offices. It will be up to the chief law officer of the crown to eventually take action for the public's benefit.

I would regret very much indeed if legal entailment were now going to stop phase 2. I say again, it is in a different level of importance but one in which the government should be even more reluctant to appear to be allowing certain barriers to be set up to a full and free revelation of the facts in this matter.

It is not only the Leader of the Opposition who is suggesting that an amendment to the terms would improve the situation. In spite of the fact the commissioner has not contacted the head of the government or anybody else, his words—as directly reported coming from himself on television—indicated he considers that to be at least one of the viable alternatives. I regret very much that the Premier appears not to have looked into that alternative, any more than to the point where he says, "The commissioner has not contacted me."

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I can offer very little by way of additional comment. I understand the commissioner has had some observations. I think the observations were related to the possibility of altered terms of reference or a stated case.

It is obvious, or should be obvious, that if there is a consensus among counsel, which there may not be, as to the most, shall we say, expeditious or most acceptable route, then obviously the Attorney General and the government will listen. I can assure the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) the Attorney General's senior people are—"monitoring" is not the correct word—very aware of the discussion that has

emerged in the past two or three weeks about what might or might not happen in phase 2.

I cannot commit the Attorney General to expressing any more than I have as of this hour today. When he is here tomorrow, he may have some more legal insights that I am not prepared to give. I will not do so. I can only assure the member who has carried on this discussion that the Attorney General's ministry is very much aware of the complexity of the problem, and we are quite prepared to be approached by the commissioner.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether the Premier wants to answer this, but I think there has been a lot of confusion about what the so-called Court of Appeal, Divisional Court judgment really means. My assessment of the two decisions is that while the commissioner is not to name names with respect to criminal or civil responsibility that would create a presumption of a legal kind, certainly nothing in the decision says that overall responsibility or overall actions cannot be commented on by the commissioner and that he cannot comment on the actions of certain individuals without getting into the question of criminal responsibility. That point has to be made.

I take it from what the Premier has said that neither he nor the government has any objection to the conduct of hospital officials, officers of the police force and members of the office of the Attorney General being examined and their names being named in the commissioner's report or in terms of the evidence that is to be put before the commission. I do not hear any objection of that kind coming from the Premier.

Is it the government's intention, through its counsel, to raise any objections on that score or any issue on that score in phase 2? Is the Premier aware of that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of it, but I go back to what I have reiterated a dozen times today. I am not offering legal opinions. I will raise that in a specific way with the Attorney General whose responsibility it is, on occasion, to offer legal points of view to this House.

Mr. Rae: Will he have a statement tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I am not suggesting that.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, I want to add a summary comment to put in context my own remarks of an earlier moment. I was not here on Thursday when this debate was taking place. I

am not a Queen's Counsel nor am I a lawyer, the second following obviously from the first.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Not always.

Mr. Conway: Not always. Good point.

I accept a lot of what has been said here by the first minister; not all of it, but I understand much of his point. Sitting on the sidelines and watching this develop and knowing lawyers at such a commission are certainly going to pursue their own lines of inquiry and there is no constraint of a personal kind any of us here could effectively place on most, if not all, of these people, surely, given the extraordinary sensitivity of phase 1 and of the whole matter, given the delicacy of the position in which so many of those witnesses in phase 1 found themselves, it is truly remarkable that lawyers for the Attorney General's department would suggest one of the witnesses might improve her testimony by considering the ingestion of a truth serum.

4:30 p.m.

If I said that in this place, I would not expect the first minister or anyone else to rest very comfortably in its receipt. I will accept my responsibility for having said some pretty unparliamentary things in my time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: One might even say "outrageous."

Mr. Conway: One might even say "outrageous."

I find it remarkable, given the extraordinary sensitivity of this whole matter, that a lawyer representing the Attorney General's department would make such a suggestion, having regard to how it must surely affect the credibility of that witness outside the hearing room, if not within. That is the kind of development that as a citizen I find absolutely unbelievable.

For the record, I want to reiterate I find it indelicate and inappropriate for a representative of a ministry of this government to make such a comment in such a highly charged and sensitive environment as the Grange royal commission. That is the kind of objection I have to what has transpired at the commission in phase 1. I certainly associate myself with the comments of my colleagues the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) and the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk in how we are going to proceed with phase 2.

Quite obviously and without wanting to pass too much comment on the proceedings, I well remember the aggressive cross-examination by Mr. Percival of some of those witnesses. If memory serves me correctly he was one of the

lawyers, and I may stand corrected, who reduced one of the witnesses to tears with his very vigorous cross-examination.

For the Toronto police, represented by its counsel, to now be able to hide behind some kind of technicality that does not allow the public to more completely understand the role of the police and of other public bodies in the laying of charges and the investigation that led to those charges is quite obviously unacceptable in so far as the public good is concerned. I would hope we would be able to resolve that very worrisome difficulty because if we do not, we will have visited upon the public of Ontario, and more particularly upon the witnesses in phase 1, an injustice of significant proportions.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I think the Premier has a little better feeling of the views of some of the members opposite on this matter. I want to say I even like the atmosphere in which this discussion is going on today. It is not just shouts and shouting back or accusations and counteraccusations.

These are difficult matters, I certainly understand that. There is no simple, neat, little, clean answer to a question such as this. I am glad to have a chance to put our views on the record.

I have a new topic I would like to introduce but I also want to be sensitive to the wishes of the leader of the New Democratic Party on how we can divide the time. Perhaps there are certain topics he would like to bring into the debate, or maybe he just wants to make a speech. I have no idea how he wants to handle it.

Perhaps I could bring up one more topic now, then turn the floor over to the members of the New Democratic Party for things that interest them, even though there are many more on my list. I want the members to know that. It is not often one gets a chance to get at the Premier. All his aides have disappeared and he has received only two or three notes in the last while. He is obviously looking a little uncomfortable, but the member for York North (Mr. Hodgson) is there to protect him.

I could make a long speech about the lack of accountability and the secretiveness of this government but I will save the speech. That has been done before by many others, far more eloquently than I could do it. My question for the Premier is why he has dragged his feet for years on freedom of information legislation. Why is it constantly so difficult to get information from his ministers? We have to send letters and put people on notice. They do not answer the questions on the Orders and Notices.

Obviously very little pertinent factual information is exchanged in this House except when the Premier so chooses during question period. Would the Premier not agree with me that his philosophy of governing is wrong, that he feels he has some sort of proprietary right to all the information produced at taxpayers' expense for him to use or abuse to suit his purposes at the time?

Before I yield the floor to the Premier for a defence of his government, which has been called the most secretive in Canada, if not in the whole western world—

Mr. T. P. Reid: By objective observers.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Totally objective observers?

Mr. Peterson: It has been called that. The Premier will recall it is the lifelong mission of my colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) to get some sense of accountability and sharing of information, which is not the Premier's, it is the taxpayers' information.

Why has the Premier taken no initiatives to bring in freedom of information legislation? He has studied it to death. Nobody has asked him to change the terms of the royal commissioner on that matter. He is aware of the issue. It is completely in his hands. It depends only on political will, and the Premier is the political will of that government—Political Bill, anyway.

My question is, why is he not bringing in freedom of information legislation? What is the status of it?

Mr. Breagh: Tell him it is a secret, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I will not say the answer is confidential.

Mr. Kerrio: A slip of the lip and down goes the Tory ship.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are cautious. We are Conservative on this side of the House. In brief terms, we—

Mr. Peterson: Take all the time you want.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Leader of the Opposition said he had a long list. I have a list too. I always find this process intriguing. It is very proper that I am asked all these questions, and I am prepared in the summation of my remarks to assess how well public money is spent in terms of contributions to the leader's office, research and so on. It is public expenditure. I have a list. I may never use it, but I have a list.

Mr. Peterson: Go ahead. I like listening to people. We are prepared to listen any time the Premier wants.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am delighted to hear that.

Mr. Conway: I want to know whether you have an Osborne Dempster.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Who is Osborne Dempster?

Mr. Conway: Read David Lewis's memoirs.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I see. Will the honourable member do me a favour? His leader has just confessed he has never heard of Osborne Dempster. Will he please fill him in before asking me?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Fill him in? You do not mean to fill him in.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. I do not mean to fill him in in the literal sense, or do him in either.

To get serious, Mr. Chairman, I take issue with the Leader of the Opposition's suggestion that this government is secretive in any sense of the word.

Mr. Ruston: You just do not tell us much.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say to the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) that sometimes the quality of our answers to questions in the House is predicated by the quality of the question—not always but on occasion. That will come as a great shock to him.

I have been in this House for a short period of time. I have seen the complexity of government grow over the years. I have been in a sort of reflective frame of mind in the past week or 10 days because a number of journalists have been asking me to think about the past 25 years. I say it is just like yesterday; I am more enthusiastic today than I was 25 years ago; I feel better; I intend to be here for another 25 years. They jot it all down. They do not believe a word I am saying. However, I have had occasion to think on how things have changed in the province, even in government.

Sure, there are some things that are confidential within government. I do not see the Leader of the Opposition publishing all the discussions at caucus, nor do I ever expect to. We are not going to publish what we discuss at cabinet, etc.

Mr. Peterson: This is a serious question.

4:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is indeed a serious question. There are some things that are confidential.

Over the years I have also discovered that there are very few secrets. I sometimes read of discussions that may or may not have taken place in cabinet, caucus, in the press. I really do not think there are that many secrets. I do not think it is, and I am being serious about this, a secretive

government compared to any other government of which I am aware. It really is not.

With respect to the freedom of information act, there is no question about it; it is being very thoughtfully pursued. It has taken us a period of time—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Thoughtfully for seven years.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. In fairness, I think it was in the throne speech three years ago, or whenever it was.

We have had a commission and it is difficult to come to final conclusions, but we are very close.

Mr. Peterson: What is the dilemma?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It would have been a series of dilemmas, not just one. I do not expect the member will ever be faced with the problems that are created by this. I say this in a friendly nature, in the way we have conducted this discussion this afternoon. It is much easier from his perspective than it is from mine, because it is also related to questions of privacy involving individuals—not government, but individuals who are impacted by government.

I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition that the freedom of information act is making progress. Shall we say that the areas of discussion have now been minimized. We are down to one or two that I think we will have finalized in the relatively near future. I am quite serious.

Mr. Nixon: When Roy gets back, it is back to square one.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I think we are very close.

Mr. Peterson: I was hoping the Premier would take us into his confidence about some of the difficulties and we would solve them for him. By implication in his remarks, perhaps he is saying it is more difficult for his government than it is for us. He is right. It is not difficult for us; we have nothing to hide.

It clearly gives one the impression that the government has a lot of things to hide and about which it would be embarrassed. One would see the same kind of files burning in Ontario as they had in Saskatchewan when there was a change of government there. Members will recall how the legislative building there was obliterated by smoke as the NDP government moved out and the Tories moved in there. I suspect the same thing would happen here.

I did not come here to give a partisan speech. There are many reasons a change of government is needed, but clearly one of them is that we have nothing to hide. We are willing to take the public

into our confidence, open up the doors and let some fresh air into the situation.

Perhaps the government has too many embarrassing documents lying around. When we ask for normal information with respect to contracts, the tendering process and the administration of this government, one has no idea how the ranks close, how many ministries have been embarrassed over their untendered contracts, how the whole mentality has changed over there. They will not tell us anything. The whole closed mind has permeated down through the entire bureaucracy at the present time.

We have some idea of what has gone on over there because of some of the embarrassment the government has had over these untendered contracts. We have none of that, and I believe we have a responsibility to root out the government's ability to govern this province and the accountability for every last penny of taxpayers' funds. Rather than being forthcoming about the whole question, the government has now closed the doors and will not tell us exactly what is happening for fear presumably of being embarrassed.

It is something we feel very strongly about. It goes fundamentally to the way we as Liberals see our responsibilities as stewards of the public's money and as trustees of its information. We would implement freedom of information very soon after being elected. We have a draft bill prepared that has been vetted. I believe it would go a long way to solving a lot of the Premier's problems in trying to do this.

I suspect they will come up with something before the next election which will be a whitewash and give the appearance of freedom of information without really doing anything. We feel very strongly about it. I would hope the Premier would proceed with some dispatch.

Going with the rules we have just created for ourselves, if other members have questions or thoughts on that, that is fine. Then I will turn the chair over to the leader of the New Democratic Party.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have a reply for the Leader of the Opposition on that one last point. I will point out to him that it is not a question of secrets. There is a growing concern and a growing issue with respect to confidentiality.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier has not done anything on Krever either.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know, but we intend—

Mr. Peterson: He does not do anything on anything.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not stand up and interrupt the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The Premier is replying. He has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are dealing with the Krever report. There is a concern, and there is no secret about it, with respect to law enforcement and what degrees of confidentiality relate to that. It will really come as a great shock to the member that the length of time of the internal debates has not been related to the things he finds so exciting, such as contracts.

Mr. T. P. Reid: If I might just have a word—

Mr. Chairman: The member for Rainy River on the same subject.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Yes.

Mr. Peterson: Let the Premier tell us what the problems are. Let him share them with us.

Mr. Chairman: The member for Rainy River has the floor, with all due respect to the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We will bring in a bill.

Mr. Peterson: Let him bring it in now. He is being secretive about his problems. We will solve them for him. Let us have a public debate.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could make my annual plea to the Premier concerning my life-long—I believe that is the word—quest to have the Premier and the government table in this Legislature the public opinion polls he takes at taxpayers' expense of some \$400,000 or \$500,000 a year.

We have had this debate so often that I am sure the Premier, if he ever dreams of these things, can do it in his sleep. As a gesture of his goodwill, why not table those public opinion polls as they become available? Perhaps the government could hold on to them for two weeks or a month to digest them and use them. We all know he does and the ways in which he does. He could show his good faith in freedom of information by making a commitment to make them available to the Legislature and the public.

I am sure the Premier is not aware of it, but in the last year I had a question in Orders and Notices asking for the public opinion polls. I received three from the Ministry of Energy and no more. I am talking about the year 1983, not 1984. I have a similar request on the order paper for this year. In the last year, which I must say is the only year since we started this business and the Premier under threat of a Speaker's warrant originally decided to cough them up, they have not been forthcoming.

I suggest that the Premier, as he is wont to do verbally on occasion, in this case can actively make a commitment today showing his good faith in freedom of information by allowing that he will ensure the polls are made available.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a simple and direct plea to the Premier. Surely to goodness, if he does not want to go down in history as the man who closed government in Ontario, who hid the decision-making process of Ontario from its citizens, it is his responsibility to bring in a freedom of information act that opens up the process of government, not merely the polls my friend the member for Rainy River has talked about, but the whole decision-making process.

What goes into the decisions of all those appointments of the many boards, agencies and commissions the government operates? What are the decisions they make behind closed doors that should be open and notified to the public, as well as the appointees and the whole range of services?

Surely we have come to the stage where we can all agree that more and more of our citizens are becoming cynical about governments. They become cynical even about their participation in the electoral process and their desire to vote. I suggest to the Premier that if he genuinely wants to involve the citizenry of the province in the electoral and political process, one way is by not only symbolically opening the doors, but by really opening the doors. A good place to start is a freedom of information act.

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I can only say to the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) that he too has been a member for a fairly lengthy period of time. With the greatest of respect, government here today—I am not always comfortable from my perspective—is far more open. Whether we are talking about information or about process or about legislation, there is far more consultation than existed 10 or 12 years ago.

Without any question one sees so many government policy matters. One sees public participation, say, in one of the member for Welland-Thorold's (Mr. Swart) favourite subjects, the Niagara Escarpment. That has been in the works for over 10 years, and a lot of it is public consultation. There is no question. We went through it with respect to the parkway and we have done it with respect to transmission lines. These things were not done 15 or 20 years ago.

I can recall in my early days in the House everything Ontario Hydro did was looked upon with great enthusiasm; it could not get the lines in fast enough. I can recall when Mr. Frost talked about the electrification of rural Ontario. Even the members from the agricultural communities, if they go back in the history of their local papers, will find that the electrification of rural Ontario was hailed, it was enthused over. Any time a new plant was opened, there was not any of that sort of debate.

Mr. Foulds: Mere debate is not enough.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think the member for Port Arthur expects too much of any freedom of information act. If the member looks at the history of freedom of information acts in jurisdiction after jurisdiction—I am not advocating that he go down at caucus expense—if he checked carefully with one of the great developments that has occurred in the United States with respect to their freedom of information act, there is no question that it has not been a boon to the electorate in that sense of the word. I would really challenge the member to go to just about any small polling subdivision in any state of the union and ask the average voter what the freedom of information act means.

But I will tell him where he will get some response. If he goes and visits the legal profession, the corporate world, those involved in trademarks and patents, he will find the freedom of information act has opened up a rather interesting new productive area for those who wish to seek information about their competitors in the corporate world with respect to what they have to file with the government of the United States.

It may be important. I am not quarrelling with that except to say I do not see the public as being the beneficiary that the member sees under this sort of approach.

Mr. Foulds: I asked the Premier to go beyond freedom of information.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am just saying we have to approach freedom of information acts as we understand them with great care, because we are also talking about privacy whenever these issues are discussed.

I would give the same assurance to the member for Port Arthur that the bill is making progress within the government.

Mr. Rae: Just as a piece of information for the Premier, he should know I have a problem in that I have seen both wings of the Tory party, as I have seen both wings of the Liberal Party.

I remember the late Walter Baker speaking with such distinction and such determination. I served in the House of Commons with Jed Baldwin when he was in his last session as a member of Parliament condemning the Liberal Party and the Liberal government for its failure to introduce freedom of information. I think of Mr. Diefenbaker himself, who was such a critic of big government, such a critic of closed government. I hear comments by Hugh Segal about the fact that a government that is not advertising at least five per cent of its revenues or something is not doing its job.

Then I listen to the justifications from the Premier as to why these things should remain behind closed doors and I often wonder whether it is the same group of people. Of course, it is and it is not. Such is the way of the world.

I would simply point out to the Premier that just this last week, as a result of freedom of information, we have heard some very valuable public information with respect to Environment Canada's attempts to reduce the radiation limits that are being imposed on Ontario Hydro. We would not have that information; we certainly would not get it from Ontario Hydro and I suspect we would not get it from the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes). We would not get it were it not for the right of the citizen to go under the federal freedom of information legislation to get that kind of information and be able to make it public.

We are entitled to that kind of information. I would also say the Premier is not living up to what I take to be the policies of the federal party, of which he is now such a strong advocate and such a strong friend.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Always have been.

Mr. Rae: The Premier says he always has been. In time people will wonder, and this is what the member for Port Arthur was getting at, about all the fuss. It is something that eventually people should be able to take for granted. They should be able to get more information about their government, certainly more information about how money is spent on public opinion polls and other things, which should be taken for granted.

I cannot listen to a Hugh Segal or a Premier of this province without thinking at the same time of those people in Ottawa who have been pummeling the Liberals day after day for having failed to publish the results of public opinion polls, for having bilked the public, for having taken the taxpayers' money and not provided information. I must say I cannot listen to the Liberal Party here

without realizing what the government in Ottawa does when it has the chance to do it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Rae) is in the unenviable position of only having to worry about one other government in the whole of the country.

Mr. Rae: This week.

Mr. Kerrio: His problem is that when you only have one wing, you fly in circles.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I cannot let this opportunity go by without trying to seek an explanation from the Premier on a matter I raised with regard to the tendering or the lack of tendering of the Shoot to Score lottery tickets and the difficulty of getting any information from the minister about the bids which were made—in fact, whether the bid that was accepted was the highest of the three submitted.

I would ask the Premier why there is secrecy about this. In this tendering process, as he probably knows from a question in the House, there were only three bidders. It was awarded to Scientific Games in the United States.

One of the bidders was the British American Bank Note Co. I talked to the president there and asked him, “Would you have any objection to releasing the information on your bid?” He said: “No, not at all. That is public business. It should be released.” It seems to me that is a logical statement.

Those of us here who have a municipal background will know—at least in my municipality this was standard practice—that when tenders came in, one opened the tenders publicly and the bidders were all invited to be there when the tenders were opened. That is the way in which public business should be conducted.

Here we have a situation with regard to a tender worth more than \$4 million. There were three bidders. One was Canadian, one was wholly American and the third perhaps was a consortium of some Canadian and some American companies. In a prepared statement he gave to the House on Friday, May 11, the minister did not state whether it was the lowest tender of the three, the middle tender or the high tender. He gave no figures at all, although I asked that in my original question.

Why? What is the government trying to hide? Even if there is nothing to hide, does the Premier not feel the public thinks something is being hidden when we do not see the figures on these tenders?

5 p.m.

The matter of tendering is not the only thing about which the public has had a lot of questions in recent times. I do not see why this whole process is not opened up as municipal governments do to make these tenders public. They even send the other bidders the information on the tender that was accepted. Why can the provincial government not do the same thing as municipal governments do and which they are required by the Municipal Act to do?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Actually, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of government tenders—in the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, for instance, which has some of the largest contracts of any within the government—that are open and public.

I will get the details on Shoot to Score. I can only recall the discussions in the House. I think the initial question by the member was as to why a Canadian firm was not used. I think that was the origin of his question; I may be wrong in that, but that is my recollection. The minister made it quite clear it was because the technology existed with the organization in the United States—I forget the exact name of the firm—but the tickets in future would be printed here.

I will be delighted to raise it with the minister if the member has a concern that the banknote company he suggested may have a lower figure. I do not even know whether that company is technically qualified to produce the tickets, but I will be delighted to try to find out for the member.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, I have a very simple question to start out this discussion with the Premier. We have been here now for nearly two months, and I know he will say I am new and so on and comment on a number of things, but I do not recall at any time in my political experience—and I have checked with my colleagues and discussed it with the former member for York South and asked him if he can remember such a time—when the government was in session for two months and so little legislation was introduced of any real substance, of any real cutting edge in terms of the matters facing the people of this province.

It is a bizarre experience to be living through a time when people are unemployed, when the province is undergoing tremendous economic change, when there are extraordinary numbers of challenges waiting to be faced, and we are being asked to spend hours on end debating the Wine Content Act and a number of other pieces of legislation. I am not saying they are unimportant.

I am simply saying they are matters that are not divisive. They are housekeeping measures, and matters of real substance involving the future of this province go unrepresented by the government.

Why did the Premier call us back in March if he had no real intention of bringing in any kind of package? How does he explain the incredible paucity of material that has been discussed at the House leaders' meetings over the last two months? Can he possibly give us an explanation? I am finding it very hard to justify to my constituents spending as much time as we do here when there is so little actually going on.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I am very intrigued by this question. I find it intriguing that once again the member discussed this matter with his predecessor. I am just trying to go back, because he raised this on another occasion and one or two journalists have written about it. I think if the member looks at the number of bills at present before the House, he will find us quite consistent. What he is really saying to me is that he has not been successful in finding an issue he can exploit with respect to the politics of his party, with respect to his—and I am saying this very kindly—political profile.

I can recall we spent hours in this House debating a bill related to the school system in Metropolitan Toronto. The member would love me to bring in a comparable bill so he could fill the galleries, get his party organizers out, stimulate a whole lot of discussion—in which he turned out to be wrong, incidentally—and provoke a political debate.

I have been in this business for a while. It is not my job to give opposition parties issues. That is the job the member was elected to do. There is no one upstairs listening to me, but I would say to those journalists who sometimes tell me things are a little dull around Queen's Park that I was not elected to entertain. This is not my responsibility.

If some members opposite want to act like clowns, that is up to them. However, I do not think that is my job. I can recall a great deal of the time in public discussion in this House was led by the Leader of the Opposition. It had nothing to do with legislation per se; it was the whole trust companies issue. It was an obsession with him; there was question after question. We had unemployment at its highest levels. We were in trouble in economic terms. However, day after day, question period after question period, headline after headline related to the trust companies issue.

I am not being critical of this. I only point out that we do not dictate what the opposition parties

raise as issues. As government, it is not our job to create that degree of political interest.

Mr. Foulds: That is a revealing comment. Does the Premier realize what he just said?

Hon. Mr. Davis: What does the member mean? I am not out here to make issues for the opposition parties; that is their responsibility. What took a lot of interest and public interest at the time of a certain budget was not the contents of the budget at all. Some of the people across the House spent more time worrying about whether the then Treasurer, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) should resign, than on what was in the budget that came out a few days later. That happens to be the truth.

I do not make those determinations. I cannot create news, nor am I going to introduce legislation which the opposition will find necessarily exciting and which will give them, shall we say, a political issue. I like to handle the affairs of the people of this province without confrontation. I do not want confrontation; the opposition members may like it, but it is not my style. I would suggest that in terms of the economic policies of the government, they should be patient until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The members may have a list of some bills they would like to see introduced. I do not know what they are, but I tell them we are following our planned program. They may not find it exciting or time-consuming. However, if what we went through in terms of time consumption by the New Democratic Party—by their having member after member getting up on the bill of the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), where they repeated themselves hour after hour, day after day, week after week—was not an abuse of the system, then I would like to know what is.

Mr. Rae: The Premier cannot conceivably be following any program. He has not done one thing he said he was going to do in the throne speech.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not mean to provoke the member for York South, but I can assure him that we are introducing legislation, although he may not think it is meaningful. I apologize to him if he does not think it is. I happen to have people communicating to me who happen to think the legislation being passed is important. I will put these people in touch with the member for York South, because he may wish to say to them that he really did not mean it when he said here this afternoon that it was not important.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, if I wanted to be entertained, I do not think the Premier, the Tory

party or the Tory government would be among the top 10. If I wanted my two-and-a-half-year-old daughter to be entertained, I would not even submit her to the kind of performance we have seen over the last two months. The Premier should not twist what I have said. I did not ask him for entertainment. I did not ask him for any issues.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course the member is.

Mr. Rae: No, we are not. We are talking about legislation that carries out what the Premier said he was going to do in his speech from the throne. He brought us here in the middle of March and in the speech he announced a whole number of things he was going to do. He has not addressed one of them.

He has not pointed the way. Look at the day care initiatives he discussed. He said he was going to be introducing them. The Minister for Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) got up to give a speech to a group of Tory organizers. He said, "This is what we are going to do with respect to a particular issue involving the classification and censorship of videotapes." Where is the bill? We have not seen one bill. We have been waiting for two months for one piece of legislation that deals with a matter the Premier thinks is substantive.

In question period, we will raise the issues we think are of real importance. I think the issues we have been raising have been seen by the public to be of real importance. What I am asking is how the Premier justifies the sustained lethargy, the sustained inactivity of the last two months in terms of the pressing problems facing the people of this province. That is what I am asking. I am not asking for entertainment, for anything amusing or for drollery. That is not why we are here, and I accept that. It is certainly not why the Premier is here.

5:10 p.m.

Is the Premier saying this is part of a plan on his part? Is he actually alleging that he planned this program of the last two months in advance, that this was a product of forethought on his part? I cannot believe that. I honestly cannot believe he sat down with his advisers and said, "Let us plan our legislative timetable for the spring of 1984," and this is what he produced. It is unreal with respect to the substantive issues. His colleagues know it; everybody knows it.

The back-benchers are all talking about it. They are all asking us: "Why are we here? We do not know why we are here. We have more important issues. We cannot understand what has happened. We do not know why there is no

leadership on the basic issues. We cannot figure it out." They are all talking to the press and to everybody else.

Mr. Kolyn: Name them.

Mr. Rae: I am not about to talk about personal conversations I have had; that is not my style.

Mr. Rotenberg: The member does not have any proof.

Mr. Rae: Oh no, that is not my style. I am not going to get into that game, not for a minute.

I am astonished that the Premier has called us back here and that we have had two months in which to spend time dealing with the legislation and in which, I would say, not a single measure to carry out the basic promises and commitments that were made in the throne speech has really been given a great deal of attention by the government, not a single measure has been brought forward in the Orders and Notices and has been presented in the House leaders' meetings as a bill that must be dealt with or as a measure that must be taken.

The vast majority of time has been spent on minor housekeeping matters. Sure, some housekeeping matters are important. Some bills that have been discussed for a long time are matters of general consensus and they now emerge; those are matters that are normally the work government has to do. But government also has to take some initiative to plan and say, "This is what we are going to be doing to carry out the program that was announced in the throne speech."

The Premier announced a program in the throne speech. What is happening now with respect to all the commitments and promises he made in the throne speech? Nothing, apparently, and I think this is the issue that the people of the province want to hear about. Why has he called us back for two months and not dealt head on with the issues he said he was going to deal with head on in the throne speech?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, with great respect, I remember the contents of the throne speech very clearly, and if the leader of the third party will review it carefully, he will find that there is not a commitment to a whole lot of legislation.

The throne speech does not refer to legislation on every single item whatsoever. They are matters of policy. A lot of it will be reflected in the budget. The member, being the expert in the economy that he purports to be, knows full well that these issues are not legislated.

I am interested. I should tell the leader of the third party something about our caucus and about

the public generally. He should get to know them here in this province. The public generally is not looking for a whole lot of new legislation. Our caucus is not enthusiastic. Does the member opposite know something about the people in this province? They think we have too much legislation now. There are some people who think we are overregulated.

Mr. Foulds: All right. Bring in the deregulation bill then. Why is the government not doing something about it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: But the member and his colleagues would oppose it, as they oppose everything else we do.

I do not know what the experience of the member for York South was in the House of Commons, but I can give him a very accurate record of how productive this House was last year. I can also give him a prediction as to how productive it will be by, say, mid-December with respect to commitments in the throne speech and the amount of legislation. I know we are in the minor leagues in his point of view, but we will match his accomplishments in the federal House any day of the week.

On the economic issues that were raised in the throne speech, the member is going to have to be patient until four o'clock tomorrow. He may decide not to stay the rest of the day; he may decide not to get here until four o'clock in the afternoon. I will not be offended if he feels he does not have enough to do here for the next week or so. I will miss the member for York South, but I will not be offended. The rest of us will find ourselves very busy.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Chairman, the leader of the New Democratic Party articulates a real concern. I understand that the Premier wants to play with this and banter with this, but it is not so much a question of the amount of legislation being introduced or that we judge our efficacy as a Legislature by the number of bills we have passed; that is not the issue.

There is a very strong sense that we are not dealing with the fundamental and gut issues, such as educational financing; such as changes in our demographics that are going to impact dramatically on our health care delivery system; such as pension reform as that impacts on our health care financing system and delivery system; such as some of the problems articulated in the document called Economic Transformation and published by his colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). How does public policy from the various ministries fit into that?

I recall very well an interview the Premier had some years ago in the time of minority government. The question put to him by the reporter was, "Mr. Premier, what is your vision for Ontario?" He said his vision was, first, to find oil in James Bay and, second, to get a majority government. He got a majority government, but I do not think there is any real understanding. Perhaps one of the problems of a government that has been presiding over the province for 40 years is that it cannot adequately face up to some real changes.

The Premier and I may disagree fundamentally on this. He may not think there is much going on. He may not think there are changes going on. In my view, we in this province are being swept up in the midst of profound structural changes that happen to coincide with the last recession, and we may not be out of that. These changes are dramatically affecting the way we will live, work and produce well and the kind of services we are going to have in the future.

I am not sure that is indicated in yesterday's poll. I am not sure there is any vision of that in the last three polls. I believe very strongly, however, that the kind of future my kids are going to have is very different from what we have gone through. The kind of opportunities that will be open to them are going to be limited and very different from those that I, the Premier and our generation have had.

I think it is our responsibility as legislators to take a much longer view. I am not sure that can be done in this House in question period or in certain debates on legislation. I understand the constraints of the rules. That is one of the reasons I am very much enjoying the discussion we are having today. I do think there should be innovative approaches to parliamentary procedure, where we engage some of the best minds in this House on various committees of interest.

For example, there is the matter of educational financing. We have not had, except for Bill 127, and Bill 42 to a lesser extent, a thoughtful discussion about education in this province, where we are going in the future and the kind of system we could have. I believe that is a topic that would lend itself very well to a select committee, as we all wrestle with those issues.

As we know, there are good and bad select committees. The good ones have worked extremely well. We developed a consensus. We developed an expertise, for example, in the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs, which the government has abolished, which it does not like

any more, perhaps because it finds that committee an embarrassment.

We could apply the same kind of rules and the same kind of mandate to a group of this House. There are many members who have strong personal concerns, who would like to get together with members of other parties and who could develop a system that would be of real assistance to the government in the formation of a policy, establishing an ongoing dialogue with the public and, in addition to that, coming up with consensual policies in a number of areas.

I recognize that there are many areas of partisan difference in this House, but there are many areas that are not partisan. I think it behooves us as members of the Legislative Assembly to make that distinction. It is foolish to turn every single issue in this House into a partisan issue. I think we can see coming many tough, gut issues; issues that are going to impact more in the future or incrementally. I have talked about some of them. I have talked about pension reform, and we had a good select committee on pension reform. I was proud to be on that, at least for a while.

5:20 p.m.

There are educational reform and medical care delivery services in the future. Those are big issues. They are what we are here and responsible for. I commend to the Premier taking a new look at the whole question of parliamentary reform. He should take his colleagues into his confidence, use them, work them and work with them. They can be staffed. I believe it would be a good and healthy process, not just for the members of this parliament, but for the government as well. I believe he would get much better public policy as a result.

We have established from previous discussions in this House that his view is that he will make it all up, work with his bureaucrats, work behind the scenes and come forward in this House with a bill some time, maybe, if he wants to, and we will discuss it then and it will be a now-or-nothing proposition. He has the votes to beat us on any issue. We recognize that. We know the limitations of opposition.

I could point to my own colleagues here, and I could point equally to my colleagues in the New Democratic Party or his own back-benchers, who would be anxious to get fully involved in the public process and help him. I think we could get far better government. That is how to wrestle with the tough problems. That is how we forge a consensus and that is how we use this Legislature effectively.

We can stand up and talk about the frustrations of being here for a couple of months. The leader of the New Democratic Party is absolutely right when we look at the various lists of bills we have passed and all that kind of thing. But I think what he is speaking about, and I do not mean to put words in his mouth, is the broader issue, that there is a strong sense we are not dealing in a meaningful way with some of the great issues.

I remember coming here in 1975 when I had never been in the building before. I had read a lot about the important people on that side of the House. I came to this parliament for the very strong personal reason that I felt I too could make a contribution. I remember the issue that was dominating the day. With no disrespect to my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), the issue of the day was hockey violence.

The new Attorney General was making a great big fuss. Nothing has changed, as proved by the member for Sudbury East. I thought to myself at that point, "How superficial; how meaningless." Does this institution have the capacity to grasp and deal with the real issues? I think there is hope for this institution. I have a profound respect for it, but I do not think it is working as well as it could.

I want to take this opportunity to add to the remarks of the leader of the New Democratic Party by saying there are more effective ways we can function together. I suspect if I were to talk to all my colleagues among the back-benchers across the floor that by and large they would agree with me on questions of municipal finance, questions of tax reform and a number of other very thorny and difficult problems to which there is no one clear answer. There is not necessarily a partisan response. There is a response of well-informed, knowledgeable people who care passionately for their country and their province and who came here to have a hand in framing their direction.

I leave that with the Premier to think about, because I am sure if he adopted that kind of approach he would get co-operation and approval from all members on all sides of the House.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am intrigued by the observations of the Leader of the Opposition. My understanding of the parliamentary system of government may be somewhat different from his. I did not sense in the leader of the New Democratic Party a desire to move to a consensus approach to legislation.

Mr. Rae: I want you guys to do something, that is all; just do something.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know exactly what he is saying. All I am pointing out is that this is not what I believe the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) was saying.

I am intrigued because I know one can have this philosophical sort of appeal. I am also a realist. I know that when it comes to government developing a program, if there is some measure of consensus, that is fine. I also know that, if there is no agreement, the members opposite—this happened during the minority situation—do not stand up and take some of the responsibility. I am a realist.

They seize every opportunity. I read their speeches around this province that vary from one community to another. They are highly critical, sometimes in a very personal way, of this government and its ministers; sometimes it is very personal.

They are always after me about polls. They go into northern Ontario and tell everybody in northern Ontario they are going to elect a whole lot of members because the polls say so. Who is obsessed by polls? I saw the headline the other day. Was it up in the member's area?

I am just pointing out to the Leader of the Opposition that he can introduce the question of demographic changes. It will come as a great shock to him, but as a government we have been assessing demographic changes for the past many years. One will see the assessment as it relates to our programs for senior citizens.

He talks about educational finance. There is not going to be a consensus because it will be his task as he sees it to suggest we are not paying enough by way of educational finance, whether to the elementary, secondary or post-secondary situation. I have read his speeches on how we are not spending enough on post-secondary education. I know his point of view. I have also read the speeches in which he has said our budgetary deficit is too high, we are spending too much money and we should tax less.

Mr. Peterson: Has the Premier read the speeches on Suncor?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have read those too, but the member cannot have it six different ways. I would be delighted to get the Leader of the Opposition to agree more with what the government is doing. Maybe he is talking more about the congressional system of government in the United States where there is a very distinct division between the administrative or executive branch of government and the legislative branch. That is not what we have here. It is not part of the tradition. One can read any of the debates in the

House of Commons in the United Kingdom and one will find that they are, and I am, part of the parliamentary system.

I can recall a member for Sudbury years ago; I do not know whether the member for Sudbury East recalls him; I know the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) recalls him. Elmer Sopha made some of the great speeches. He was one of the great orators in this House and made quite a bit of sense on some days but not on all days. He reminded all of us that parliament is a partisan place. It is where party politics are part of the way we do business. I am not always comfortable with that although I should not confess that. By its nature, it is a partisan place.

One does not stand up very often even when one agrees with the government and say, "Yes, the government has done the right thing" and so on, and I do not expect it, though I will give the members some political advice: if they did it, their criticisms would have greater credibility, but they never do it. I say that very kindly; they never do it. I should not say "never," that is too strong. Very rarely do they do it in terms of government policy. It is their job to be critical.

I am not opposed to select committees. Their House leader always reminds me we have too many select committees. He is coming through the door here. He tells me with great regularity we have far too many select committees. I do not know how one could structure a select committee on educational finance. I do not think one could have one that would bring forward a productive result. Those determinations are based on taxing levels and what we believe our economic policy should be.

If the members opposite are not content, then they are critical. That is part of the process. One might have a select committee on hockey violence. The member has raised this as an example. There one would find a tremendous degree of unanimity. I am not suggesting we do it, believe me, but that is the kind of issue where one might get a measure of consensus on how it should be approached. I do not know.

Mr. Martel: The minister turned it down. He has not done anything about it. We allow the kids to get killed in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say to the member for Sudbury East that I respect the sincerity with which he is approaching this issue since he has become so involved in it. It is not a question of not doing something about it. I am not an expert in this field, either. I have a youngster who played a little hockey for a time, but I know it is not a question of legislation per se; it involves

instead discussion with the people in leadership in the amateur hockey associations, the referees and so on.

Perhaps that is one area that would be appropriate, but we would be leading ourselves astray if we thought we could have a select committee dealing with educational finance that would produce that sort of result. I am not being negative with respect to some of these suggestions. I have to deal with realities. Those are some of the realities as I see them. I hear the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) and he knows what I am saying.

Mr. Chairman: Is this a new comment?

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, it is a new topic. It is a throwback from something that was said earlier.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Before the member proceeds, is the member for Port Arthur following the same line of thought?

Mr. Foulds: It is exactly on this topic.

Mr. Chairman: We did have an earlier—

Mr. Foulds: I am on the same subject as we are currently discussing.

Mr. Chairman: Then we should proceed with that.

Mr. Foulds: I want to ask the Premier specifically about his legislative program, or lack thereof, with regard to items that were raised in the speech from the throne.

In the speech from the throne the government said it would have efforts and initiatives to improve women's rights. Where is the program? Where is the legislation?

The government said it would introduce programs that would "assist small communities to upgrade police and fire stations, support the growth of recreational boating and help develop new marinas." Where is the program? Where is the funding? Where is the legislation?

The government said it would "work with our tourist industry to create tourism co-operatives to help unemployed tradespeople find jobs." Where is the program? Where is the initiative?

The government said it would prepare "initiatives based primarily on the review of the sheltered workshop program to widen work and training opportunities for handicapped persons in our society." Where is the program? Where are the initiatives?

The government said, "The future wellbeing of our agriculture industry will be assisted by creating a widely representative advisory council

on agriculture." Has it been appointed? Where is the program? Where are the initiatives?

The government said, "While we remain vigilant in the protection of Ontario's birthright, the environment, we are prepared to reform, from experience, the processes in our regulatory framework." Where is the program? Where is the reform? Where are the initiatives?

The speech said, "My government has resolved, in the face of increasing pressure on opportunities in the financial sector, to determine the necessary measures to ensure the health and competitiveness of the financial institutions operating in Ontario." Where is the program? Where is the legislation? Where are the initiatives?

The government said, "Following careful and extensive consultations, the government will be introducing, in this session, reforms to the workers' compensation system." Where is the legislation? Where are the initiatives?

The government said, "The Ministry of Health will increase access to the most up-to-date methods to prevent and treat kidney disease." Where is the program? Where are the initiatives? Where is the legislation?

Those are just a few.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I have some difficulty in recalling all of them, but my recollection—

Mr. Wildman: That is obvious.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I mean all of the ones the member has recited.

Mr. Foulds: None of those required the budget.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, several of them do and most of them do not require legislation. I say that with the greatest of respect. Some are under way, some have been started and some will be—

Mr. Foulds: Give us the examples.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will go through them. By the time we get back to these, I will have the total list and will tell the member exactly where they stand. With great respect, one does not go through and ask, "Where are the policy, the initiatives and the legislation?" because many of them do not require legislation.

Mr. Foulds: Where is the initiative?

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, frankly I am tired and I am concerned with respect to the Workers' Compensation Act that we are going to be faced, as we have been faced in previous sessions, with a situation where the day before, the week before or two days before the House is due to adjourn,

the minister will bring down some changes to the Workers' Compensation Act and say: "There you are. Either you take the whole package or nothing."

This is the way the last week works around here. That is one thing that is exactly the same as in Ottawa. It is the same thing. Governments put it off until the very end, then they whip in everything they want to get through and they say, "Either you get the good things and the bad things, all of it, or nothing." That is the leverage that is applied. This whole blank space gets bigger and bigger and the bills are piling up.

Is the government intending to bring in the workers' compensation reforms prior to any adjournment date in June or July? When is it going to be doing it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member sort of asked the question on a high note and I thought he had a supplementary—

Mr. Rae: I know. I was not quite sure.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He was not sure exactly what it was he was asking.

Mr. Rae: Nothing more came out. That is all.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is unique for the member.

Mr. Breaugh: You have never been accused of that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have lost my voice on occasion. I am in the process now, as a matter of fact.

I am trying to be as frank as I can with the leader of the New Democratic Party. There are fairly comprehensive amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. I hope we have them ready for introduction before we adjourn this spring.

Mr. Rae: Does the Premier expect to have them passed?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I doubt it. Some may suggest that on some parts of it they may want—I hope not—another series of hearings or perhaps some opportunity for public discussion.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I am sure you would want to join with me in welcoming a former member to this House, Gordon Smith, the former member for Simcoe East. Welcome. We shared responsibilities similar to those you have now, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure all members will agree with me that he served with distinction. I am sure we are happy to have him visit us again.

Mr. Nixon: You do not have to worry about him. He drove down in a Rolls-Royce.

Mr. Stokes: I wonder if he is still dealing in clocks.

I want to get back to something that was discussed a little earlier when we talked about freedom of information. I am talking about freedom of choice. I cannot think of a better and more immediate opportunity to discuss a problem that was brought to my attention during question period this afternoon.

I got an emergency call from the chairman of a local school board who said one of the members of the board had just been advised by his supervisor that, as a result of changes to the Public Service Act, he could no longer sit on the local school board because he happens to be a member of the Ontario Provincial Police.

I went over and discussed it with the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor). He said it was news to him and he had never heard of it. He said, "Let us go and talk to our colleague the Chairman of Management Board." The Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague) said: "I do not know anything about it either, but they may be right. I recall something that happened within recent vintage."

I have since got a call from the Solicitor General's office confirming that a member of the OPP who serves as a school board member has to make a decision: he either resigns from the OPP or he resigns from the school board.

The Premier will know that in small communities in the north we really have to shake the bushes to get somebody to serve on municipal councils, school boards and the public-spirited bodies where one really has to get the best people possible. He knows what happens at municipal and school board elections where, almost without exception, it happens by acclamation. One really has to go out and get people to serve.

We happen to have an excellent OPP officer in my home town who asked me whether he should attend a school board meeting in Marathon, 58 miles away. In checking with the officials, they said, "That is the law." It did not happen by legislation; it happened as a result of regulation. Apparently there was an OPP constable who wanted to run for a political office. I think it was for the government party.

Mr. Wildman: Federally.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, federally. They took it to arbitration and the policeman and his association won the case. Apparently the Premier's people in the Civil Service Commission did not like that, so they brought in a regulation that treats the OPP as other senior civil servants. I am told if one is at the directorship level or higher, one cannot run

for the federal Parliament, provincial parliament, local council or a school board.

5:40 p.m.

I do not know the rationale behind that, but I do not see bogymen behind every tree. We have civil servants or OPP constables who are public-spirited, knowledgeable and dedicated, and here we have disfranchised a whole new group of people from serving in a way in which we think they are competent to serve. I just wonder if the Premier is aware of what is happening. Apparently, the Solicitor General did not know the consequences of the regulation and the Chairman of Management Board did not know.

I had to advise this Ontario Provincial Police constable not to go to the meeting in Marathon but not to resign. I said I would raise this very troublesome question at the earliest opportunity. I was going to raise it tomorrow in question period if I could get on the list.

I am imploring the Premier to look into this and to see the reasons this regulation was passed. Is it something we are not aware of? Is it something the OPP is not aware of? Is it something the people in northern Ontario who elect these people are not aware of?

This guy is a very valuable member of a local school board. He did not phone; it was somebody else, a member of the board, who called on his behalf. I do not expect the Premier to answer off the cuff, but there must be some rationale for the action that was taken. A lot of people are disturbed about it, and they are going to continue to be disturbed unless we can get some reasonable and plausible answer to the action that has been taken.

I do not think it is fair. I think they are being disfranchised; they are being denied freedom of action in a public-spirited way. I just hope the Premier will take this as notice and either change the thing or come up with some plausible explanation as to why something like this could happen in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will certainly inquire into it. I know the honourable member understands that if this regulation is having this effect, just so everybody will understand, it is not confined to northern Ontario; the same would apply to the Peel Board of Education.

Mr. Stokes: No. It has a much more profound impact on northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. We need good school board members in Peel as much as the member does where he is.

Mr. Stokes: Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As long as the member understands that. I am delighted that an OPP officer is contributing to school board activities.

Mr. Laughren: That is debatable, too.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am quite serious about that. I will find out.

I could give the member a guess. It is like so many regulations where one may or may not find the broad principle acceptable but where there is a rationale; then when it comes into specific application, we can always find circumstances where we believe the regulation should not apply.

I cannot say that is the case in this instance, but I will inquire. I may not be able to reply to the member directly tomorrow, but I will have one of the ministers of the crown do so.

The Deputy Chairman: Is this on the same subject?

Mr. Mackenzie: It is on what we were discussing just moments ago on the items we have on the agenda, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Kitchener-Wilmot would have gone next then.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I have a perplexing difficulty that perhaps the Premier of Ontario can help me out of.

As the Premier is probably well aware, all members of this Legislature are attending at school tree plantings, bicentennial celebrations and Education Week celebrations. My agenda has been no different. In the last two weeks I have visited seven schools, which come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education of Ontario, and I have been talking about things such as the bicentennial celebrations.

But I must admit I am having great difficulty explaining to the children and the pupils of Ontario why we are celebrating Ontario's bicentennial in 1984. The difficulty, of course, is relating back 200 years and trying to identify what happened in 1784 that justifies this celebration.

I would draw to the Premier's attention a textbook entitled, *The Story of Ontario*, by Joseph Scott. The Premier may recognize it because when he was the Minister of Education of Ontario this was one of the approved textbooks. The Premier, of course, will well realize that I am aware of this because I used it in the schools of Ontario when the Premier was the Minister of Education for Ontario.

Let me quote from the textbook that I assume was approved by the then Minister of Education in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That assumption is in error.

Mr. Sweeney: Oh, is it? I am sorry. Let us say if it was not approved by him, the then Minister of Education would certainly have had something to say about it.

It says, "The year 1791 may be called the birthday of our province." I will not read all of this, as I am conscious of the time, but it goes on to point out that was the year in which the Constitutional Act or, as it is sometimes called, the Canada Act was passed. That was the year when, for all practical purposes, the western half of what was then the colony of Quebec was broken off, divided at the Ottawa River, to create for the first time an area then known as Canada West which, of course, is now Ontario.

In other words, prior to 1791, Ontario, or any particular geographic outline the Premier wishes to define, simply did not exist. It was all part of the jurisdiction then known as Quebec, the French colony under British domination or British jurisdiction. It was not until 1791, by an act of the Parliament of Britain, known as the Constitutional Act or the Canada Act, that Ontario as we know it today, or for the most part as we know it today, was created. It simply did not exist before that.

The Premier will be well aware of the fact, according to this textbook his ministry approved for the schools of Ontario, that was the year in which the first elected assembly was created in Ontario. It did not exist before that. In 1791, for the very first time, the people of Ontario had the opportunity, albeit in some rather strange ways I will not go into, to elect their representatives.

The text goes on to point out some of the very important laws that were passed by that very first assembly elected for Canada West in 1791, laws which, for example, allowed us to have trial by jury, which was not possible in this jurisdiction before; laws which allowed the British land-holding system, which we did not have before; laws, which I thought were very enlightened, that were passed for the very first time in North America prohibiting slavery.

I wonder if the former Minister of Education was even aware of that. The first elected assembly of what is now Ontario passed the first law in North America prohibiting slavery because some of the United Empire Loyalists who came up here both before and after 1784—

Hon. Mr. Davis: And during 1784.

Mr. Sweeney: And during. The only thing in this textbook that applies to 1784 is the fact that it was the one single year in which the largest number—not the first and not the last, but the

largest number—of United Empire Loyalists came into what is now Ontario. That is the only significant historical fact and an important one to keep in mind.

The point I am trying to make is that here we have a textbook that was approved for the schools of Ontario, and it says the physical creation of what we now know as Ontario did not even occur until 1791. The first elected assembly was not created or permitted until 1791. Some of the significant laws with respect to trial by jury, the British land-holding system—about which, by the way, we even had a reference today from the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations—the abolition of slavery, everything that was truly significant in terms of a bicentennial celebration happened in 1791 and should be celebrated in 1991.

5:50 p.m.

I go back to my original question. How do we go around this province speaking to the children of Ontario? I am not talking about anything partisan and I hope the Premier will recognize that I make absolutely no partisan remarks when I am talking to children in the schools in Ontario. I never have and I never will; I do not think it is appropriate. How do we explain this? I would appreciate an answer from the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The former academic adviser has given me a tremendous challenge to try to explain to those schools he attends why 1984.

Mr. Breagh: The year before the next provincial election. That is clear.

Mr. Rae: It is the 200th anniversary of the first Tory riding association in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Not necessarily.

Mr. Breagh: We are trying to help the Premier.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the leader of the third party want the answer?

Hon. Mr. Davis: He is preoccupied with Tory riding associations.

Mr. Rae: The arrival of the first Tories in Ontario—not the first people but the first Tories.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is not true. There were some here before 1784.

Mr. Rae: Not in my riding.

The Deputy Chairman: The Premier has the floor and he is about to answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I thought the member would have said there are not that many Tories in his riding even now. We are getting more all the time. We would be happy to send them over.

Mr. McClellan: There are no Tories in my riding.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, would you bring the House to order.

The Deputy Chairman: The Premier will answer the question.

Mr. Wildman: It is such an esoteric argument.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is, really. It is partially esoteric because unlike—

Mr. Rae: Who were the first Tories anyway?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think it was the Rae family. My recollection is that historically some went to the Liberal Party. The brother of the leader of the third party is obviously a supporter of the capitalist approach; I sensed that in New York the other day. His uncle, obviously, is more culturally endowed than he is and a bit of a pragmatist. Does he want any more about his family?

Mr. Breagh: I said he was not going to answer the question.

The Deputy Chairman: That does not pertain to the question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It does not at all, but the member for York South brought his family into it.

Mr. Rae: No, the Premier did.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, I did. He is quite right. The uncle of the leader of the third party is a very fine musician.

The member knows a little about history, the teaching of history and the evolution of jurisdictions in Europe, south of the line, even in this country. The formal date for some states of the union, some of which are still called commonwealths even with respect to the United States as a whole, of the signing of a treaty or the signing of some formal document is not necessarily the most important part of the evolution or development of that jurisdiction from a historical standpoint.

I would argue not as a teacher or as a former teacher—I do not have that experience as the member does—but if it had not been for the settlements in 1784—some before and again some after—we might not have had the acts of 1791. I give the member this challenge that if the events in 1784 had not taken place, would we have had the acts of 1791? I think that he, as an analyst of history and of how these things evolve, would probably have to agree that would not have taken

place and this province might not have ever emerged in its present form.

I was down in Quinte riding the other day and I was with his colleague the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil). There is no question about the perception at that dinner. They all approached me on this, that in terms of the change in the settlement of this province, the thing that gave it a different character and started it on its growth was the settlement in 1784. No one is arguing that in legal terms that was the beginning of the province of Ontario, but that has not been the history of country after country, province after province or state after state.

Mr. Sweeney: The government is making a celebration but there is no birthday.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, there are some people who will argue that in terms of the ultimate celebration, the conception is as relevant—

Mr. Nixon: I wonder what the Premier thinks of as the ultimate celebration.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That could be misunderstood.

Mr. Foulds: Go ahead, Johnny Carson.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not know. All I am suggesting is that if the member would like to discuss this with Professor Careless, who was my professor of history at the University of Toronto—

Mr. McClellan: Careless.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Careless; he is a very able professor. I want to tell the member that he is.

Mr. Sweeney: Is the Premier aware that in the book of Professor Careless, 1891 was the first centenary, not 1884?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I understand that. I would refer the member to some of the articles or some of the statements made by Professor Careless in relation to the bicentennial. I had no trouble. I was up in Fesserton the other day. Does the member know where Fesserton is?

Some hon. members: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not ask them. I asked him. Does he know where Fesserton is?

Mr. Sweeney: I can find it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He does not know where Fesserton is. It is sort of half way between Coldwater and Waubesa. It is up in the great county of Simcoe, Huronia, where much of our history had its beginnings before the United Empire Loyalists.

A friend of mine teaches school there. They have three or four grades. They did a great job. They put on a little play of what Fesserton was like. They were celebrating their 100th anniversary. We combined it with the bicentennial. I planted a tree and it is growing with enthusiasm.

I try to approach it on this basis. The bicentennial is not a celebration of a specific date in history in terms of a new province being created and people sitting down to sign a formal constitution. What 1784 was and what 1984 represents in our bicentennial is really the historical understanding and awareness that this was the approximate date that put Ontario and its future on the road.

Mr. Foulds: Approximate; give or take a decade.

Mr. Wildman: Approximate.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It could have been from January 1, 1784, until the end of December, 1784.

Mr. Kerrio: It happened in 1492.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It did not happen in 1492 at all. The member just wants to take a little credit for his fellow countryman in 1492. That is all he wants to do. I have no trouble talking to students about how 1984 and 1784 are relevant periods in our history.

Mr. Sweeney: You are really stretching it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are not stretching it. One always interprets history. I have read more history books based on the same set of facts that come to different conclusions.

In our household we have a mixed marriage. It is no secret. My wife is a former American. She is now a Canadian because she could not tolerate the *Globe and Mail* having a headline, "Premier's Wife Refuses to Vote for Him." She has become a Canadian.

The Americans' perception of the battles of the War of 1812 are quite different from those of Canadians. They have the same set of facts. For a long time, I think Kathleen thought Laura Secord really came from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For years in some American schools they thought they won the battle of Queenston Heights. It just is not true. They interpreted history in a different fashion.

I am trying to explain. We are getting close to the supper hour. I hope I have convinced the distinguished academic that we have selected the right year and that we should all be joyful. As the member for Brock (Mr. Welch) would say, we should rejoice together in the celebration of this bicentennial for the people of this province.

As with the member for Quinte and with the pictures I have seen of the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) planting a tree and raising the flag, I was intrigued as to how we are all stepping into the enthusiasm and sharing as members of this House. This is one area that is nonpartisan, where we should all join together in observing this important date in the history of this province. The member should explain that to his students.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Eaton, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
33	1160	2	6	"This convention" of the United Nations "was
33	1160	2	12	work of equal value some two years ago,"—that would have been 1977—"which was rejected by ministry officials.
				"There is absolutely no activity or consideration

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No. 44

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, May 15, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 15, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I rise to ask this Legislature to recognize and show its appreciation for the fine effort put out by the Orillia Junior A Travelways hockey team. This team has become the pride of Orillia and all Simcoe county. In a magnificent display of sportsmanship, the Orillia Travelways team managed not only to win the all-Ontario championship but to come out on top of all eastern Canada.

Finally, through a unique blend of individual effort and overall teamwork, enthusiasm and skill, this band of young people battled through seven games before being forced to admit defeat for the national Junior A title in Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

They deserve the recognition of this Legislature, not only because of their remarkable achievement and the skill and effort they have given their chosen sport but also because of the example they have given to young people in Orillia and throughout Ontario of what hard work, dedication and willingness to work together can achieve.

This team has brought honour to Orillia. They have joined Brian Orser and others who have shown that Simcoe county stands second to none when it comes to producing excellence on the skating rink. I ask this House to show its appreciation to these young people as a sign to them that all Ontario supports their efforts and their good sportsmanship.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

INVESTITURE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, the members of this House and all the people of Ontario, I would like to extend our best wishes to Canada's new Governor General, Mme Jeanne Sauvé, at the time of her investiture to this very high office.

As Her Majesty's representative in Canada, the Governor General embodies our most valued traditions of loyalty to the crown and our commitment to parliamentary democracy. In

Mme Sauvé, Her Majesty has found an ideal representative and the Canadian people have found a worthy person to govern them and reflect their identity.

Yesterday I was privileged to attend the ceremonies in Ottawa and I can attest to the dignity and intelligence Mme Sauvé brings to the vice-regal post. Her appointment marks the first time in the history of this country that a woman has served as Governor General. It is fitting that such an honour should belong to Mme Sauvé, a woman who has been at the forefront of the efforts of Canadian women to have a stronger voice in the councils of this nation.

While Mme Sauvé accomplished her achievements in Ottawa, women were also assuming greater roles of influence in Ontario. I think, of course, as many in this House will, of the Honourable Pauline McGibbon, the first woman to serve as a Lieutenant Governor in Canada. I also think of my colleague the member for Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch), the first woman to serve in an Ontario cabinet. Public life in this province and this country has been enriched by their contributions.

As a member of Parliament, as a minister of the crown and as a Speaker of the House of Commons, Mme Sauvé has acquired a wide knowledge of Canada and a deep appreciation for the ideals of its people. The Governor General's address yesterday, with its emphasis on unity, nation building and peace, demonstrated her special sensitivity to our shared aspirations and her ability to inspire the people of this country to greater achievements.

As Mme Sauvé assumes her new duties, we extend our warmest wishes for her continued good health and we look forward with great anticipation to her many visits with the people of Ontario.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I want to support the sentiments expressed on behalf of the government by the government House leader (Mr. Wells).

I was pleased to hear that he attended at that ceremony yesterday. Driving down from Pembroke and listening to the national radio service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., I got the

impression that it was very much a day for pomp and circumstance. Certainly I and my colleagues in the official opposition want to wish Mme Sauvé all the very best in the important vice-regal responsibilities she has now assumed.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I want to join with the government House leader in wishing Mme Sauvé well.

Following on the heels of a great, now-retired Governor General who did a yeoman task, I know she is going to serve equally well as the first woman in that capacity. Probably the most difficult job in any House is that of Speaker. God knows, with some of the people who occupy those benches, she did that job with dignity.

As one listens to the goals she has set for herself, one cannot help but be impressed by her concerns for world peace, for children and so on. We would like to wish her not only success but also continued good health in her very onerous tasks in the years that lie ahead.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I have been prevailed upon by my colleagues to say a few words as one of the few francophones left in this Legislature who is not on the committee that has gone—to New Orleans, is it, Nouvelle-Orléans?

Je pourrais, M. le Président, de la part de mes collègues, ceux qui ne sont pas ici, dire quelques mots en français concernant la nomination de Mme Sauvé. Je voudrais dire simplement que, de la part de l'Assemblée, nous sommes extrêmement fiers de voir qu'une personne, non simplement la première femme à avoir ce poste-là—

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Are we listening to me or not?

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I want you to be harsh on those who interrupt me.

Mr. Speaker: They are your own colleagues.
2:10 p.m.

Mr. Roy: Whether they are or not, I trust they will allow me to continue.

Je disais, M. le Président, que Mme Sauvé, c'est certain, va remplir ce poste avec beaucoup de courage, beaucoup de flair et beaucoup de compétence. Elle va le faire non simplement parce qu'elle a démontré sa compétence comme une femme dans le passé, mais elle peut opérer la liaison dans les deux langues officielles. Je dis à mon collègue le Premier ministre de se contenter de comprendre que la représentante de la Reine doit être capable de dialoguer dans les deux langues officielles.

Et à part ça, Mr. Speaker, I would underline another important aspect of Mme Sauvé. She happens to be a francophone from Saskatchewan.

Mr. Nixon: All centred in Willow Bunch.

Mr. Roy: She is from another small town called Prud'homme, farther north in Saskatchewan. I thought it was important that from this assembly, where, of course, both official languages are recognized, we have un petit mot, un bon mot et un mot important pour Mme Sauvé.

Mr. Villeneuve: M. le Président, il me fait plaisir d'appuyer mon confrère d'Ottawa-est en le saluant le nouveau Gouverneur général et lui souhaiter toute la bonne chance possible.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Hon. G. W. Taylor: En français, M. le Président?

Mr. Speaker, this is National Police Week, and I know the honourable members will want to join with me in expressing their appreciation to those dedicated men and women who serve us so ably across our province.

In our increasingly complex society, police work has never been more demanding, and the fact that Ontario continues to be served well by our police officers and that they continue to enjoy a high level of public support says much about the quality of the people who serve our citizens in the police function.

The slogan for National Police Week this year is "Police and Community Working Together," altogether appropriate in view of the increasing number of our citizens involved in crime prevention programs across the province. What it represents is the continuing focus of the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the police forces across this province on encouraging citizens to take steps to protect their own property and for the community to participate with the police.

As Solicitor General, I am encouraged by the willingness of more and more of our citizens to get involved and to assist police in Ontario in the vital area of crime prevention. For instance, in the war against drinking and driving, citizens' groups such as PRIDE, People To Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere, and ADD, Against Drunk Driving, are making invaluable contributions in educating their fellow citizens about the menace of drinking and driving.

The Neighbourhood Watch programs, as another example, have also proved to be effective in reducing the crime rate in some areas.

This year as well the Ontario Provincial Police celebrates its 75th anniversary. The history of the Ontario Provincial Police will be the theme of displays in shopping malls in a number of Ontario centres. The OPP Pipes and Drums and the Golden Helmets motorcycle precision team will be appearing throughout the province during this week.

Many police forces will be hosting open houses and presenting displays. I hope all members and their constituents will take the opportunity to drop in on our local police forces and express their support.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the 8,000 police officers in Ontario who serve all of us in such an able fashion.

NATURAL GAS INCENTIVE PRICING PLAN

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that an industrial natural gas incentive pricing plan is to be implemented in Ontario retroactive to May 1, 1984. The outline of this plan was announced by the ministers of energy for Canada and Alberta on April 26 and will provide for discounts to large industrial gas users in eastern Canada, including about 270 in Ontario.

The incentive plan results from a process of negotiation between the governments of Canada and Alberta in consultation with many interested parties, including my ministry. The plan reflects many of the views expressed by the Ministry of Energy, by the Ontario gas distributors and by the industry in Ontario. The specifics of implementation in Ontario will be put into effect through operating agreements between the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission and the Ontario natural gas distributors.

The discounts will have a positive effect on the health of Ontario industry, contributing to the preservation of existing jobs and the creation of new jobs as our competitive position improves.

It is not by any means a complete answer to the competitive difficulties of Ontario industry, but it will help. Moreover, this incentive pricing plan represents a small but significant step in the right direction to more market-sensitive pricing for natural gas.

As the current pricing arrangement between Canada and Alberta draws to a close at the end of the year, I will be pressing for further steps to adjust natural gas prices to the realities of the market.

On May 30, 1984, I am convening a conference for industrial gas users. About 100 of Ontario's larger industries have been invited to

this conference, along with representatives of the federal and Alberta governments, natural gas producers, pipelines and distributors. The conference will provide a forum for Ontario industries to highlight the impact of natural gas prices on their competitive situations.

There will also be reports on the gas marketing situation in the United States and how the gas industry in Canada is responding to the concerns of the industrial sector.

The need for natural gas price adjustments is by no means limited to the industrial sector and I will be urging the governments concerned to address this issue.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Premier. In this period of restraint and the restricted government funding for the important services in this province, why was it necessary for two ministers of the crown to fly to Centralia last Friday in separate aircraft to participate in the opening of a \$750,000 project at the Centralia College of Agricultural Technology?

Since the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) was attending the graduation at the college the same day, would it not have sufficed for that minister to have represented the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe) at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new college facility?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can recall some discussion last week where the honourable member certainly indicated his desire to be there and how important this was to his community, and very properly so. I am sure the same member would be disappointed and perhaps critical if the appropriate ministers of this government had not been in attendance. I am surprised he would feel the Minister of Government Services should not have been there.

Mr. Riddell: Would the money spent in flying two ministers to open that project not have been better spent in the area of hospitalization for people who are actually dying for want of hospital beds; for education, where we know there is restricted funding and young people are suffering; and for businesses such as farmers who are certainly struggling in this day and age to survive?

Do we need to have that kind of wasteful government expenditure in flying two ministers in two separate planes to the opening of a new building when people are wanting for money in

health care and education and many other important services in this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was just confirming the circumstances with the Minister of Agriculture and Food. As I understand it, the Minister of Government Services had an appointment or commitment at noon of that day in Oshawa. He did fly to Centralia and the two ministers came back in the same aircraft.

The member can help me with this. For the sake of argument, my guess is the flying time from Field Aviation Company Ltd. to Centralia by King Air is probably in the neighbourhood of 35 minutes. I forget what the cost per ministry is. I think it is around \$300 or more per hour, which if one were to do it on the basis—

Mr. Nixon: All of those planes are on permanent lease.

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, it is not. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) can give the member the precise figures, but with respect to that flight I guess we are talking somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$300 or \$350, if one took the full hour. That is just an approximation.

No one is suggesting we should not economize. I can assure the member that ministers do fly together to a number of those meetings in northwestern Ontario and other parts. They get along with one another. They talk to one another.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Unlike the Liberal caucus.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Unlike the Liberal caucus, the Minister of Agriculture and Food interjected.

I can only say to the honourable member that we make every effort not to have duplication of these services. To put it in perspective, the member is talking of roughly an hour's flying time. To be specific, I guess it would be around 35 minutes.

Mr. Riddell: I wonder if the Premier would take the time to talk to the business community, the teachers, the boards of education and the hospital workers of this province to find out from them what \$300 an hour would actually mean if it were applied to their services rather than to flying two ministers to attend one opening of a \$250,000 project in my riding. Will he take the time to talk to those people?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I probably talk to more members of the teaching profession than he does, Mr. Speaker, and I perhaps talk to as many in the farm community and probably more in the business community. I have never found any of

those groups to be overly critical of the things we do as a government. I would ask the member to check with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As to how many planes they own.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There was a day when they owned their own aircraft. The member may even find that is still the case.

I would say we are very careful on this issue on a comparative basis with those people with whom the member some days wishes to be associated and other days wishes not to be associated, with those people for whom he does not want to carry the can one day and is prepared to carry the can the next day, depending on whether the polls are up or down. This government has exercised far more discretion and efficiency in the use of that form of transportation than has the government of Canada.

MINAKI LODGE

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. He will recall discussions during the review of previous estimates regarding the hiring practices for personnel for Minaki Lodge. I am sure he will recall that in speaking with him and Mr. Fred Boyer there was some indication it was very difficult to get skilled young people to work in certain jobs at Minaki Lodge in northwestern Ontario.

Can the minister indicate the number of staff who have been hired or are going to be hired for this season? Can he indicate if Ontario young people are urged to apply? Are they afforded first opportunity for employment before he recruits in Winnipeg as he did last year?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I will be prepared to provide some information on this subject because, after all, as the member opposite knows, Minaki Lodge is by far the largest employer in that area. It is very important for young people and others to find employment there. We will certainly be reporting to let the member know how many from Ontario and how many from the neighbouring province of Manitoba and elsewhere have received employment.

Mr. Eakins: Could the minister indicate where he recruits for young people to take positions at Minaki Lodge? Could he outline the hiring practices?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We give preference to young people from Ontario, but we will also give some opportunity to young people from Manitoba, particularly from Winnipeg. Many of our

neighbouring Manitobans visit the lodge. They are some of our best clients. The first preference would go to the young people of our own province, and not only to the young people but to those people of other ages who live in the Minaki district.

I have told the member before that Minaki is one of the major employers. That is one reason it is there; it is a major employer in that part of the province.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, in addition to how many jobs are created, would the minister indicate how many of those jobs are full-time as compared to part-time? Can he also indicate the total cost to the taxpayers to date in creating each of those jobs?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, I am prepared to tell the member how many full-time jobs are there and how many part-time jobs are there. This is a tremendous economic impetus, and I do not view it in the cynical way the member opposite views it, in terms of how much it costs the taxpayer. We are providing employment opportunities up there, as we promised we would do.

Mr. Eakins: If one of the major problems is securing skilled young people to work in certain positions at Minaki, what input has the minister made to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) to make available more places in community colleges to train more of our young people?

Many who want to participate in the tourism industry are turned away from skilled opportunities. As the minister knows, we have the largest tourism debt in history in this province at present and we need to reverse it. What is the minister doing to have more input with the Minister of Colleges and Universities to make more opportunities for young people to attend colleges?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I am sure the Minister of Colleges and Universities could answer that question very adequately herself.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As the member opposite knows, there are many programs right now in our community colleges designed to train our future workers in the tourism industry. As he also knows, we have very recently assisted, together with the federal government and others, in opening the Ontario Hostelry Institute, a very major and significant step forward in developing in this province skilled workers for our ever-growing and burgeoning tourism industry.

Quite frankly, to keep on saying here that tourism is in trouble, that it is in a deficit position, I do not think adequately describes the situation. The number of tourists coming into this province, especially from the United States, is growing quite remarkably from last year. If the member wants evidence of that—

Mr. Eakins: Yes, it is down.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is not down.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: A few weeks ago I was at the Minneapolis sports show where 160 of our tourist operators from northwestern Ontario were with their wares. They told me, and they will tell the member if he asks them, the number of tourists coming back to their resorts is way up over last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN SUDBURY

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. He may know the federal government has just published a report, entitled Canada's Nonferrous Metals Industry: Nickel and Copper: A Special Report, 1984. I hope he also knows one of the observations in that report is that Canada's nickel and copper producers and the communities dependent on them are in a more vulnerable position today than at any time in their history.

In view of that comment in the federal report and in view of the fact that we are expecting lower levels of employment in the ferrous metal industry in the Sudbury basin because of attrition, because of technology replacing persons on the job—and we also know that in the first 10 months of 1984 approximately 8,800 people will be going off unemployment insurance benefits; we do not know where they are going to go, but they will be dropping off unemployment insurance benefits—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Laughren: —could the Premier tell us what we can expect in the way of job-creation initiatives specifically applicable to the Sudbury basin?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have not read the report, although I am aware of it. I think much of the content of that report was relatively predictable. The honourable member has raised some of the same concerns expressed in the report that others have had for the past several years.

2:30 p.m.

With respect to the longer-term prospects for the nickel industry or copper industry, we have

debated those in this House, including the impact of offshore developments, what was happening, and I guess is not happening at the moment in Guatemala, and the impact on the nickel market generally. There is no question there have been certain changes in sources of supply. There is no question Sudbury or Canada is no longer the prime supplier of nickel. This situation has changed and we understand it. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) will be meeting later on today and tomorrow with other ministers of mines across Canada on matters relating to this report and other issues. We hope they will have some insight as to the longer-term prospects of the industry.

In terms of what really was a second question, whether I was aware of the report, I have not read it, but I am generally aware of its contents. In terms of people who will be coming off UIC benefits over the next period of time, it is a matter of concern to this government. I am not sort of passing the buck. It is something I am sure our Minister of Natural Resources will be raising with his federal counterparts.

In terms of other job opportunities in the Sudbury basin, I do not say for one moment we have any easy or simplistic answer to this situation. I can recall very vividly two and a half years ago, not at the request of the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) but certainly with his endorsement, this government entered into what was a locally initiated program, an assessment within the Sudbury area, to find alternatives.

I think a great deal of local initiative was shown. We are quite prepared to support any viable opportunities in Sudbury. The museum is not a major contribution, but it is significant, and I expect the member will be there, along with the member for Sudbury East, when it is opened some time in July. It is a fairly significant economic contribution from this government to enable that facility to move ahead. I think it could be of a genuine economic plus, not in terms of the total number of jobs obviously, but in terms of the numbers of visitors, their stay and the return to the economy of the Sudbury basin generally.

I have never professed to have all the answers relevant not just to the Sudbury basin but to other communities. Some parts of our province have been, as the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) has raised with me, dependent on a single industry, usually in the resource field. As a government, we are constantly looking for ways and means to improve these situations and find alternatives. I can assure the honourable member that if something constructive and viable

emerges, even from ideas of his own, this government is prepared to take a look at it.

Mr. Laughren: It is interesting to hear the Premier say this. He is right in one sense, in that the regional municipality of Sudbury has put a great deal of work into developing its long-term strategy to solve some of the problems in that community.

Is the Premier aware of a couple of documents? One is a report, entitled *A Challenge to Sudbury*, which my colleague the member for Sudbury East and I prepared over a year and a half ago. The other is a major document by the regional municipality of Sudbury, called *Towards Economic Diversification*.

The suggestions include such things as a new smelter, a precious metals refinery, agricultural initiatives, public housing, a speedup of the local bypass, a fertilizer plant, energy conservation, and I could go on and on. They were included in both documents, *A Challenge to Sudbury* and the presentation of the regional municipality of Sudbury.

These are all very positive, wealth-creating kinds of projects that would help solve the problem in the long run. Can the Premier tell me why this government, despite having this information for some time now, has not taken action on these suggestions?

What we are asking the Premier is what more we can do? We have put the positive alternatives and the regional municipality of Sudbury has put some very positive alternatives to the government. They have put an enormous amount of work into developing a long-term strategy for Sudbury. What is lacking is leadership on the part of this government. When can we expect some action?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will try not to give an answer as lengthy as was the question.

Mr. Conway: The Premier set a high standard in his first response.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I said I will try. I did not say I would. I keep trying. The member for Renfrew North—

Mr. Conway: The first answer was about as long as it was possible to be.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Never mind the interjections, please, and get back to the question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The very concise, always precise member for Renfrew North in terms of his contributions did not provoke me, but he stimulated me into making some observations.

In replying to the honourable member, I go back a little in history, too, and sometimes memories are short. It was a very major decision by this government to build a major government facility in Sudbury that not only created employment at the time but has also provided a certain stability with that number of jobs in the public service in that community.

I can recall not only a prior commitment but an ongoing commitment to Laurentian University. The member may not feel this is relevant; we happen to think it is. The government has demonstrated its enthusiasm for that institution. The member may not share that enthusiasm, but we do feel it. I think it is fair to state that, and not just as it relates to the museum itself. There are also certain road programs in the process of being expedited. I acknowledge that certain people on unemployment insurance are part of the short-term program.

With regard to a new smelter, one of the suggestions of the regional municipality, I cannot honestly say that is something the government could or should undertake, but I am quite prepared to look at anything that would involve this government in any sort of practical solutions to the longer-term prospects of Sudbury.

I am not quarrelling with the idea of a new smelter except to say, with the greatest of respect, that if there is to be a new smelter, it should be an initiative of somebody in the smelting industry. I would refer the member to the resource machinery business that is being located in Sudbury. There may be more things. We think we have through our efforts made a major contribution towards helping solve this problem.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the government has known about this since 1978, when the first layoffs were announced at Inco and Falconbridge Nickel Mines and we had a select committee, none of whose recommendations was accepted by this government. Could the Premier at least indicate that if there is going to be job creation, it will deal with a specific age group?

The average age of those coming off unemployment insurance benefits is 28 years, most of them family men who have no hope of finding alternative employment. Why has the province not responded to such overtures as the suggestion and the application by Valley East for 150 jobs to diversify on a permanent basis the agricultural base there?

Forgetting that for a moment, if he cannot give any answers to the specifics, would the Premier

at least be prepared to meet in the very near future with the local members and the regional municipality of Sudbury to discuss the documents my colleague has presented, one of them emanating from the regional municipality, in order to determine if anything is possible in terms of short-term jobs or the long-term diversification of the Sudbury basin?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, there were maybe three or four questions there. The first was whether I would be prepared to meet with the head of the regional municipality. The answer to that is obvious; I meet with the very distinguished member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) with some regularity. He brings the concerns of that community—

Mr. Conway: I bet he does.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —with great regularity and expresses them very well.

There was reference made to the committee report related to the industry in what year?

Mr. Martel: In 1978.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In 1978-79. That is right. In my recollection, one of the prime recommendations in that report, and I may be referring to the wrong report but I do not think so, was some form of federal and provincial subsidy with respect to stockpiling. Am I correct in that?

Mr. Martel: That was one among about 13 or 14.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That was one of the most expensive and major recommendations in the report.

Mr. Martel: That was one.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am just giving my judgement of that with hindsight.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We all have it. I say with the greatest of respect that if we had accepted that report and invested millions of dollars of taxpayers' money into stockpiling, it would not have solved the problems of the nickel industry in Canada. In my humble opinion, for what it is worth, it probably would have made the market conditions for Inco and Falconbridge more difficult than those they are experiencing today. It just shows that while members opposite pressed us to do it and we said no, maybe our judgement was correct.

2:40 p.m.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour related to the safety of maintenance workers and drivers in the Toronto Transit Commission subway.

Is the minister aware that there have been seven incidents involving the power lockout procedure accepted by his ministry since December 28, 1983, including such problems as faulty relay contacts and faulty ground straps? Does this not now seem to show the minister that the lockout procedure his ministry accepted as being fail-safe last October is an accident waiting to happen? Is he prepared to require the TTC to institute a procedure to lock out the power at track level when maintenance workers are there and maintenance work is being carried out?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there have been some problems. I am also aware that my officials are working with the TTC people to rectify those problems.

Mr. Wildman: These seven incidents seem to substantiate the concerns raised by Local 2 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees at the December 21, 1983, meeting with the ministry officials. If that is the case, why can the minister not agree to have his officials who are working with the TTC instruct the commission to shut off the power at the substations at either end of the work location? After all, there are no subway cars using the tracks between 2:30 and 5:30 a.m., when the maintenance work is carried on. Why can he not agree to do that?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The honourable member wrote to me on March 2, 1984, raising a number of allegations relevant to the TTC. In all cases, these were followed up accordingly and appropriate action was taken where necessary.

Mr. Wildman: Is the minister not aware that one of the procedures used to protect workers and give them secondary backup is a ground strap procedure where the ground strap blows a fuse, if the power comes back on, to warn the workers? The workers also use this for testing the track. The problem is that if the fuse blows, that means there is no secondary protection for the workers for the rest of that shift. This has happened a number of times.

If he takes the recommendations of the Achong inquest jury seriously, is he prepared now to look again at that ground strap procedure and to institute the second recommendation of that inquest with regard to the training of workers?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I responded at considerable length to the member's letter of March 2, but his request is reasonable. I will review the circumstances again. I cannot give any commitment that I will change my position, but I will certainly be happy to review the circumstances.

PORNOGRAPHIC TELEPHONE CALLS

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications concerning pornographic telephone calls.

I am sure all members of the House have received copies of the resolution from Thunder Bay which has been endorsed by their local municipalities. I will just read a short excerpt from it:

"A telephone number is being circulated among youths in the city, primarily in the schools, which, when dialled, initiates a 60-second pornographic message. This number, which is advertised in pornographic magazines as being toll-free, has appeared on the telephone bills of many parents whose children have been calling this number, unaware that it would appear on the household telephone bill. Understandably, upon informing themselves of the content of the call, the parents have come forth in opposition and have been investigating means by which this line can be monitored or discontinued."

I know the minister has made some inquiries and initiated some action, but besides those things, I wonder whether he could take some direct action by contacting the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) and urging him to look at the possibility of including advertised phone calls in his announced changes to the censorship regulations.

I realize we would not touch private telephone calls, but I question whether this really is a private telephone call when it is advertised as containing some sort of entertaining message. Would he also ask the minister whether these people could be prosecuted for false advertising?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, not being an expert on these types of phone calls and not having listened to this one, I cannot comment as to whether it is false advertising.

In all seriousness, I have received the correspondence from the city of Thunder Bay. We have been looking into it. We have passed our concerns on to the Minister of Communications in the federal government and to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission as well as to the Ontario Telephone Service Commission, as it is involved to some

degree in the regulating of the smaller telephone companies in the province.

It is a difficult thing. It is something I have just heard about within the last month. I am not sure whether it is totally new or whether it is confined just to Thunder Bay. It is the only place I have heard of this taking place.

One suggestion was that if there were some way all these calls could be mechanically reversed, then perhaps the person who was advertising the calls would soon take the ad out of the paper.

Mr. McGuigan: I appreciate what the minister has said, but I am sorry he has not said he would confer with his fellow minister.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McGuigan: Would the minister also confer with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurray) to see whether the instigators of this ad, and possibly the magazines themselves, are breaching the obscenity section of the Criminal Code and urge him to do whatever he can to prosecute them?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, I will confer with my colleague the Attorney General. I am pleased to see him back with us today.

DE HAVILLAND AIRCRAFT OF CANADA

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade. Can the minister, who feels neglected lately, confirm whether he has heard rumblings from his federal counterparts that they are prepared to dump Canadair and Hawker Siddeley? And can he tell us whether he agrees with people such as Michael Wilson that they are just not viable and not worth supporting?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the honourable member looked at me today when he posed the question, because I have been a bit embarrassed about somebody imitating me in the back row.

Mr. Van Horne: Two for one.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is true.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Nobody else looks like you, Frank.

Hon. F. S. Miller: He is trying.

I would point out that the only contacts I have had as Minister of Industry and Trade really have not related to Canadair; they have related to de Havilland, which I think the member meant to mention, not Hawker Siddeley.

It has been my position as the Minister of Industry and Trade that Ontario is indeed very

anxious to see the continued operation of de Havilland in Ontario. It is a company with high world-class technology, one we cannot afford to see close or move elsewhere.

Mr. Stokes: Can the minister confirm that, if there should ever be a new government over in Ottawa that might feel disposed to divest itself of those, he, on behalf of this technology and on behalf of the thousands of people it employs in this city, will buy up those interests, not only to protect the jobs but also to protect the contract his colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) has to purchase the first two Dash-8s off the line?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think any speculation by me as to what I would do when the government changes would be premature. I would suggest, though, that the surest way to ensure the continued operation of the factory at de Havilland—which is my major interest, not the ownership of the factory—would be to help that company meet international competition for sales.

International competition for sales is not based upon price or quality half as much as it is based on concessional financing. That is where I believe the government of Canada can do a great deal to help de Havilland sell its world-class aircraft against the competition, such as that from the Brazilians, who are offering low interest rates.

LICENSING OF VEGETABLE GROWERS

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It is my understanding that the Eastern Ontario Vegetable Growers' Co-operative has applied for a licence to process vegetables under the Farm Products Marketing Act.

Further, under the new processing-vegetable financial protection program, the Eastern Ontario Vegetable Growers' Co-operative must satisfy the licensing authority with respect to financial responsibility. As growers are ready to plant and do not wish to interact with a processor who is yet unlicensed, could the minister please throw some light on the status of this application for a licence?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the financial protection plan to which the honourable member has referred in his question was developed over a great many months in co-operation between the vegetable processors and the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board. The firm in question, the co-operative, is unique in the

province; it is quite unlike any other processing operation we have. It has therefore necessitated several meetings involving representatives of the co-operative and the staff of the ministry who are responsible for financial reviews of applicant firms.

At this point, I am not in a position to divulge any numbers or the basic facts about the company, because that is confidential information and I could not do that without its explicit co-operation and acquiescence. This matter will be taken up in the very near future by the Farm Products Marketing Board, which is the body that issues the licence.

Mr. Sheppard: Since there are 118 growers involved and more than 7,000 acres, could the minister set up a meeting in the very near future? This is very important to the growers in Northumberland county.

Mr. Speaker: Will the minister agree?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am well aware of the importance of the co-operative. In fact, if memory serves me correctly, going back over the last 15 or 20 years, our government has assisted the co-operative on many occasions. The fund has been established to protect growers, not to reduce their interests or impinge on their interests in any way. Certainly, if it is necessary, I will be pleased, as always, to hold such a meeting.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, as the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard) has raised this question, I hoped the minister would be able to give these people a meeting, and maybe he still will.

Is it true that someone from his ministry, in speaking to the people in Ottawa, has said he would like to see this co-op out of business? Is it also true the minister has set up some companies in direct opposition to this company, knowing there has been an overabundance of the crop over the last couple of years?

Is the minister prepared to meet with these people? Did somebody in his ministry tell the federal people the ministry would like to see this particular co-op, which has many Conservative, Liberal and New Democratic Party members in it, out of business? Is he trying to drive it out of business? Will he meet with them?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, that has to be absolutely the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard.

Mr. O'Neil: Why is the member asking the minister then?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I do not know. Why is the honourable member asking such a ridiculous question?

When I look over the years at the amount of assistance we have given to that company, going back to the early 1970s—it has not been only the provincial government; the federal government has assisted as well—I see that since 1972 we have given that company seven individual grants or loans to assist it in being established and in expanding.

Nothing could be further from the truth. We have no interest in seeing that company go under. We have every interest in seeing it carry on. However, like every other company in this province which has to be licensed to process vegetables, it must conform to the financial criteria that have been developed by the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board, representing all producers in the province.

TOMATO CONTAINERS

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I would like the Premier (Mr. Davis) to take special note of the question, because we may need the services of his office in resolving the problem.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Mancini: The Minister of Agriculture and Food may recall that I wrote to him on August 8, 1983, concerning the problem that Ontario tomato growers were having with the distribution of field tomatoes in Quebec. Government officials in Quebec were not allowing the distribution of Ontario field tomatoes because they were in four-litre baskets and not in four-quart baskets. I received a response from the Minister of Agriculture and Food to the effect that this problem would be resolved before the next growing season.

I want to ask the minister exactly what he has done in the eight months that have transpired. Why do we not have a commitment from him yet that the government of Quebec will allow the distribution of Ontario field tomatoes throughout that province in four-litre baskets?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, obviously I cannot make commitments on behalf of the government of Quebec. The government of Quebec must make commitments on behalf of the government of Quebec.

We have made repeated representations to the minister and staff of the ministry in Quebec City, as have officials in Ottawa and officials of the Canadian Horticultural Council. To date, the government of Quebec has not given a definite answer as to what its intentions are. We have advised the growers' association in this province

that as a contingency we should be prepared, if necessary, to ship into Quebec in imperial measures.

I am advised there will be no problem in obtaining the necessary containers inasmuch as we ship to the United States in similar containers. I find it rather strange that we have not been able to get a definite answer, but that is where the matter stands at this time.

Mr. Mancini: I am sure that in normal trade relations there is a distribution of goods and services that we allow to flow back and forth across the Ontario-Quebec border without any problems. That is exactly the way it should be.

Can the minister tell the House whether he has spoken directly with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for Quebec? What problems did that minister explain to the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food as to the difficulties they face with the distribution of Ontario tomatoes in four-litre baskets? Did he point out to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Quebec that it has been accepting Ontario fruit in litres and that has not been a problem?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I can assure the honourable member that we have made the minister, Mr. Garon, and his officials well aware of all the facts. I spoke to him a number of months ago. I have been in touch by a telex as recently as last week asking again for clarification and an answer to the repeated approaches we have made at all levels. It is really beyond me why they have not been able to arrive at a determination of their policy, but the fact is they have not.

3 p.m.

FUNDING OF THE ARTS

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship and Culture. On April 5, the minister announced the 1984-85 operating grants for nine cultural agencies. She promised an announcement about additional funding for the big five performing arts organizations after the publication of the Macaulay report. Almost six weeks have passed. There has not been a word on the matter and there was nothing in last week's statement.

Has the minister anything to report? When is she going to make an announcement on that subject? When it comes, will it be of the order of the \$5.4 million over two years urged by Macaulay to prevent, in his words, further damage to major performing arts organizations?

Hon. Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, I do intend to respond in full to the Macaulay report; I hope it will be in the fairly near future. I am pursuing the

very careful review that I indicated I had in hand, and I will be addressing all of the recommendations.

Mr. Allen: Do I understand the minister to be saying not only that she will be making a response to this particular question but that she will be making a much larger response, as she promised us on April 8, the day on which the report was released, on the major perspectives of the report as well as the major proposals it encompasses, which is a matter, of course, on which hinges a lot of the future planning of all arts organizations in this province? Can she give us a date for that announcement?

Hon. Ms. Fish: It is my intention to so respond as I indicated, and I will do so at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, when we discussed the Macaulay commission in the Legislature, we asked some questions about additional funding for many of the arts groups. Does the minister have any further comments at this time on that funding?

Hon. Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, I have no further comment in addition to the answers I provided to the initial questioner.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, who I understand is also the effective parliamentary secretary for that department, the youth programs as well; his own parliamentary secretary. My question concerns the Ontario student venture capital program, about which the minister made such a glowing report in this House about three weeks ago.

Can the minister confirm that there is a blacklist, as was indicated by one of his officials, which apparently applies to those student venture capitalists who have failed in their endeavours? Can the minister confirm that the blacklist exists? If so, how long has it been in place? How many people are currently on the blacklist? How well advertised is the fact that if one fails as a student venture capitalist, he or she will not be allowed to reapply to the Ontario student assistance program?

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, I think there needs to be one word of clarification about what is involved here. Because the ministry and our staff try to be accountable for tax money, we feel obligated to do everything we can to secure the repayment of any loans that are in default; but our rates of default, I might say, compare very

favourably with those in the general commercial area.

Naturally, a list is kept of whether or not people have repaid their money. If by October repayment of the loan that has been guaranteed by the province has not been made, then the student who has undertaken the loan and undertaken to repay it is notified that interest will be charged from then on, and we will endeavour to collect it.

We obviously ask the student to make any kind of arrangement he or she can to repay the loan. If the student does make an arrangement with the secretariat to repay the loan over whatever agreeable term can be arranged to mutual satisfaction, then that is regarded as a satisfactory repayment mechanism and there is no further problem with the student obtaining the funding under OSAP.

Mr. Conway: I sincerely appreciate the minister's clarification. Do I take from his answer there are other penalties outside of being blacklisted for further OSAP loans or grants?

More specifically, what penalties, if any, attach to those Ontario student venture capitalists who have failed in their enterprises, unfortunately, but who do not in the future plan, as they did not in the past, to participate in the Ontario student assistance program? What penalties, if any, apply to those people who have failed in this program but who have no need or requirement to apply for any part of the Ontario student assistance plan? Are there any penalties attached to those people?

Hon. Mr. Dean: There are no penalties to any participant except the obligation to repay the loan.

ACTIVITIES OF POLICE

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Three weeks ago today, William Franklin Baker was discharged in the court in Hamilton with respect to matters related to his confession in the allegations that were made against him at that time. Will the minister now table in the House the report of the Ontario Provincial Police investigation into the circumstances surrounding his arrest, detention, interrogation and subsequent discharge in the court?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I have no such report at this time, but since the honourable member has asked me, I will ask for a report of the incident so I can provide the member with that information if it is possible.

Mr. Renwick: Is the Solicitor General saying this House will never see the report of the OPP or

the report of the investigation he has jointly made with his colleague the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) into this matter?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I have not said that. I said I have not yet seen a report and if one is available, and I am at liberty to present it to the House and table it, I will provide him with that information and so table it.

TRUANCY

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education and it relates to the provincial government's lack of policy regarding truancy. Perhaps the minister can bring me up to date on where the provincial government now stands in this regard.

Attendance counsellors in Ontario school boards say they are being kept in the dark about the province's plans for dealing with truant children. Malcolm Powell, chairman of the social action committee of the Ontario Association for Counselling and Attendance Services said, "Ontario attendance counsellors are 'angry and frustrated that we do not have a place in the appropriate legislation to control compulsory school attendance.'"

In view of the fact that there appears to be a lot of confusion out there as to just what the provincial government is going to do, what is the minister doing in regard to truancy in this province, particularly in the light of the court decision which was rendered by a Toronto judge? I think it was in Toronto. The minister could help me with that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, in response to the final part of that question, the case was introduced to the courts before the introduction of the Young Offenders Act and it is my understanding that in that circumstance, in all legal matters the original act would apply. That is what the judge decided in that case, which is completely understandable and I believe may be a part of the decision if there are other cases pending which had come into being before April 1, 1984.

There has been a memorandum issued by the deputy minister to all the attendance counsellors and all the boards in the province giving the boards our concern about the policy modifications we perceive to be most appropriate and suggesting strongly that there not be any charges laid against students pending the development of the process to deal with truancy. The policy is in place with respect to the general framework. It is the process to deal with it appropriately which has to be finalized.

It is my understanding that a significant number of attendance counsellors in the province have been consulted very fully on the matter of the development of the new policy and will obviously continue to be so.

Mr. Bradley: Some of the boards of education are apparently ignoring the minister's edict, from what I read in newspaper reports which I presume must have some accuracy in them, but that is not my supplementary question.

Why has it taken the minister so long to develop this policy, to place something on the books, when she has known the Young Offenders Act was going to be proclaimed sometime? I believe it was passed in 1982. What has taken the minister so long to put something in place to govern the idea of truancy and help boards of education to prosecute those who are in violation of the law?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One of the characteristics of the activities in the Ministry of Education is very broad and deep consultation, and consultation has been going on for a very long time about this. The policy has been framed appropriately. As I said to the honourable member, it is the process for dealing with the infractions of the policy that is to be finalized at this point. I believe that discussion is almost finalized at this point.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I really do not feel the minister has answered the question. She had a report in 1982 that set out the three proposed policy options for the ministry to deal with this issue. Why has it taken 1982, 1983 and 1984? The Young Offenders Act is now proclaimed and she still does not have her policy options sorted out and a new policy in place.

What on earth has taken her so long when she has had so much advance notice and has done so much advance planning? Why is she still not ready for the Young Offenders Act?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as I said, the consultation process is extremely lengthy. The three options were considered fully by all those concerned with education in Ontario. I remind the honourable member that it is difficult to achieve any degree of satisfactory consultation for approximately three months out of every year—June, July and August.

Mr. McClellan: The minister has had three full years.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not my fault. The Ministry of Education is still in place, but the

school system does not function effectively during that period.

Mr. Conway: Teachers take note.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not just teachers, not by a long shot. That consultation process was absolutely required. We do not establish policy in the Ministry of Education without full consultation with all the groups.

Mr. McClellan: The minister has had lots of time for consultation. She could have consulted everybody under the sun.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There was controversy in the consultation and that had to be resolved as well. The policy framework is in place and the process will be finalized. There was a great deal of controversy.

DAY CARE

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. This spring, an ad hoc committee of four women's organizations met with the provincial Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). The groups that formed the committee were four very important organizations representing large numbers of women in Ontario. They were the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women, the Canadian Association of Women Executives, the Ontario Status of Women Council and the Young Women's Christian Association of Metropolitan Toronto.

Has the minister heard about the proposal the ad hoc committee presented to the provincial Treasurer to establish a fund for women's programs similar in its working to the provincial Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, which would direct job-creating funds into badly needed facilities for new child care spaces, shelters for battered women and homes for the homeless, many of whom are women? If so, has the minister undertaken a study of the proposal?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I attended the meeting at which the representatives made that suggestion, among others. The Treasurer and I indicated we would take the proposal under consideration, along with other matters they raised. I suppose the short answer to the honourable member's question is yes, I am aware of that meeting. Second, I was at the meeting and the proposals are being reviewed.

Ms. Bryden: I hope the minister's answer means he is actually undertaking some studies of the program that could be built up.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Ms. Bryden: The ad hoc committee also urged the encouragement of work-site child care. Is his directorate making any studies of the need for child care facilities in the Queen's Park complex and other large government complexes? Is he considering the request put forward by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union in its last collective bargaining session for the development of such facilities in government work places?

Hon. Mr. Welch: As the member knows, since the assignment of these responsibilities I have had an opportunity to meet with many organizations. The group to which the member makes reference did include that proposal.

Mr. Martel: The minister is a busy little consultant.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Pardon?

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjection, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would draw attention to the fact that there are some work-place child care facilities. They are not in the Queen's Park complex but they are in some other public buildings. As the member also makes reference, this is on the table now as part of the negotiations.

I think the member can take some comfort from the fact that in the speech from the throne there was a section dealing with a review of the whole area of child care. Certainly, there was the question of work-place child care being part of that review.

RECYCLING

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. He will recall that last week a report entitled Breaking the Barriers was released by the Canadian Environmental Law Association and Pollution Probe. It cited a number of examples of where his ministry was falling short in carrying out its responsibilities to encourage recycling and reduction.

Would the minister agree it is about time his ministry followed the lead of Quebec and British Columbia by introducing legislation that would provide tax incentives and low-interest loans to help companies install recycling and reduction systems?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I would not agree with that. At the moment, as I am sure the honourable member is aware, we have a program through the Ontario Waste Management Corp. which takes into account the types of waste that can be recycled or reused between industries. It is

working very well and it is growing. I anticipate it is going to be nothing less than a tremendous success, and I invite the member to join with me in making it a success.

PETITIONS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As resident electors, many of us send our children to independent schools because we believe parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their child. Most independent school supporters are people of modest means and we ask for your help in reducing the unfair burden of what in effect is double taxation.

"Our school operates in the public interest and we ask for protection for the right of our school to its existence and the remission of taxes taken away by the province of Ontario but not used for the education of our children."

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that Mr. Edighoffer and Mr. Newman exchange positions in the order of precedence for private members' business.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Having reached this point, I am going to adjourn the House until four o'clock this

afternoon, at which time the budget will be received.

Mr. McClellan: Recess the House, not adjourn it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I said it properly the first time, with all respect.

The House recessed at 3:19 p.m.

4:05 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Davis, that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Speaker: If we may have the indulgence of the House for a few minutes, we will deliver the budgets to the individual members and then we will proceed.

Have all honourable members received their copies of the budget? If so, the Treasurer may proceed.

BUDGET STATEMENT

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, before commencing these remarks, I believe it would be only appropriate to honour a very important tradition at this time, and that is to acknowledge the significant contributions to the strong economic environment we inherit today made by those who preceded the current Treasurer in these difficult responsibilities.

We have with us, of course happily on the Treasury benches, my immediate predecessor, who did so much over the past five years to create a circumstance where Ontario has very strong and growing economic circumstances, the strongest in Canada.

He points out he offered me his jacket, but I declined.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Thank goodness.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I should also like to recognize for honourable members two former Treasurers who are, as usual, in the gallery with us on this occasion. They are Mr. John White and Mr. James Allan. They did so much in other times to create the kind of stable and secure environment we have all come to know, honour and appreciate that I think it is appropriate they join us on this occasion.

If members will bear with me, I should like also to acknowledge what to me is a very important presence today, and that is the presence of a former Minister of Revenue, my immediate predecessor in the great riding of St.

Andrew-St. Patrick, my father, who is with my mother.

Mr. Nixon: Eddie Goodman is up there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not think you would notice.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Of whatever significance it is, I should say to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that Mr. Goodman is occupying the seat that had originally been allocated to Senator Kelly, who could not be here today. It may not be the only seat of Mr. Kelly's that he aspires to, but I cannot speak in detail about that.

In any case, to complete the illustrious row up there, I should like to acknowledge what to me is a very important presence. First, of course, is Kathleen Davis, the wife of the Premier (Mr. Davis). At the risk of tiring my colleagues, whose applause I will need later on in the afternoon, I should like to acknowledge the presence of my wife and the heart of the Forest Hill atom all-star hockey team, which won the Metropolitan Toronto Clancy Tournament this year, and my three children, Melissa, Jamie and Robbie.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am glad to hear there is an athlete in the family.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They inherited it from their father.

Before submitting to this Legislature the budget initiatives I am proposing, I want to outline briefly the basic choices I have made and how I have approached this assignment.

To encourage constructive discussion across the province, I presented last autumn a prebudget statement that assessed our economic outlook and outlined the basic choices facing Ontario. The discussions arising from that document have been valuable, and I am grateful for the advice that has been tendered. It speaks well of the open consultative process that will remain a hallmark of budget presentation in our province.

In designing the specific measures in this budget, I have been guided by what I have heard and by what I believe to be a broad consensus on our economic circumstances and on the aspirations of our people. The Ontario economy has recovered from recession and will grow broadly in 1984. Rising exports and expanding domestic activity should provide a 4.7 per cent increase in real economic growth and an 8.9 per cent increase in personal income.

However, if we are to prosper in a changing world economy, sustained expansion demands

not only steady resolve in the fight against inflation, but a shared commitment to economic transformation. We cannot return to business as usual. We are in the midst of a profound economic change, and adjusting to this transformation—indeed, assisting it—is a social and economic imperative.

This year employment is expected to increase by 125,000 jobs in Ontario. This reinforces our confidence in our economy, but it must not disguise the fact that unemployment, particularly among our young people, is too high and will require energetic and innovative action by government.

This budget will focus on our ability to invent, to create, to be entrepreneurial. In this sense, our people, and especially our entrepreneurs, are clearly our greatest economic asset.

Our public institutions and our communities themselves have a powerful contribution to make in meeting new economic challenges and equipping our people to enjoy rewarding lives. Local governments, universities and colleges, labour and our active volunteer organizations must all be full partners in the economic and social transformation of the province. This budget will encourage that partnership.

The government has a clear mandate to invest vigorously in supporting and shaping change in Ontario. But in doing so, we must live within our means. Deficits must come down. For the year just ended, I am pleased to report we have been able to reduce the projected deficit of \$2,695,000,000 to \$2,350,000,000. However, this budget must go further. By maintaining our commitment to productivity and efficiency, we will be able to make major new investments in our economic transformation.

This budget rejects stopgap measures; rather, it makes strategic investments in the long-term interests of our people. Consistent with these principles, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development will guide the implementation of the economic strategy in this budget. This year BILD will be provided with a \$500-million economic transformation fund to equip our citizens and our industries to meet the demands of a changing economy.

Bearing in mind the need to be creative and the advice we have received, this budget will significantly expand and reform our support for youth employment; improve job access for women; assist older workers in acquiring new skills; strengthen the role and resources of our learning institutions; quicken the modernization of our industries; stimulate innovation and small

business; enhance our resource industries; help break the cycle of welfare dependency; offer more independence to the elderly and the disabled; extend our commitment to productivity and restraint, and reduce the deficit.

During this time of economic transformation, the products of inventive and energetic minds will shape our horizons and determine our competitive success.

Industry, in particular, has an obligation to increase its efforts to train our people. Individual businesses must generate more opportunities not only by participating in government programs, but by sponsoring initiatives of their own.

Accordingly, private sector employers who benefit from government employment subsidy programs will be expected to provide meaningful experience and training.

Today I am announcing the establishment of two major funds through which this government will invest \$600 million over the next three years in youth training and employment and in retraining for experienced workers.

We will create a \$150-million Ontario skills fund to build on the experience of older workers by investing in retraining and upgrading.

We will also create a \$450-million Ontario youth opportunities fund to provide major new opportunities for young people to acquire the training and expertise they need to prepare for the future. We have rejected temporary make-work schemes because they do not prepare our young people adequately for the future. Only a strong and growing economy will ensure a job for every young woman and man.

4:20 p.m.

These initiatives, together with our existing programs and activities, are strategic, long-term investments in our young people. They will complement the activities of the federal government and our educational system and will mobilize the efforts of the voluntary sector, municipalities and businesses. Together we will provide an opportunity for every young person in this province.

Last year our colleges and universities provided opportunities for training and higher learning to more than 330,000 people in Ontario.

In addition, we have in place a range of programs that address specific employment problems of young people. These programs will now be co-ordinated and consolidated through Ontario youth opportunities. Young people and employers will gain access to this program through a province-wide telephone network.

Ontario youth opportunities will place new emphasis on training and experience for the hard-to-employ—those young women and young men who suffer frequent and extended periods of unemployment—and young workers who have lost their jobs during a time of economic change.

I now wish to announce a 10-point strategy to increase youth training and youth employment in Ontario.

1. We will create a nonprofit corporation called Ontario Youth Trust, which will increase training and job experience for hard-to-employ young people. It will offer basic work skills and provide placements in local firms. The government will expect business leaders from all regions of the province to serve as active members of the board of directors. Local firms will be asked by the board to provide funding, training positions and jobs. They will also be asked to contribute staff to co-ordinate the program and provide counselling and job search skills. These counsellors will work closely with participants during their early weeks of employment to help improve their job performance and build their self-confidence.

2. Under a new program, Ontario youth corps, we will put our young people to work in important community services such as home care for the elderly and assistance to the handicapped and disabled. This will give them experience, work and a sense of self-worth. We will provide wage subsidies and seed money to support initiatives developed by service organizations and by municipalities.

3. A new residential centres program will be created. It will offer basic and intensive education, vocational training and counselling for disadvantaged youth, aged 15 to 19, who lack literacy and other basic skills needed to get a job. These centres will be operated by voluntary groups, businesses, school boards and municipalities. Trainees will receive room and board and a weekly allowance.

4. Through our community colleges, we will create a new Ontario youth start program, combining instruction and basic work skills, on-the-job training and counselling for young people who left school early and lack experience, motivation and self-confidence. This program will operate away from the traditional educational environment and will use surplus space in public buildings, commercial facilities and, where appropriate, vacant schools.

5. A new program, Ontario youth tourism, will combine intensive training at a community college with on-the-job experience. Employers

in designated tourist areas will be asked to create 2,500 positions and provide young workers with a training allowance of \$100 per week.

6. We are committing \$80 million to a new Ontario youth work opportunities subsidy program. The object of this program will be to support those job opportunities that offer real training or important job experience. A variable rate of subsidy will be introduced so we can target support to young people whose employment problems are most severe. The highest rate will be offered to young people who have less than a high school education and who have been without work for at least three months.

7. To encourage young people to start new businesses and become entrepreneurs, a new year-round venture capital incentive will be established for out-of-school youth. It will provide interest-free loans of up to \$5,000.

8. We will increase from 33 to 100 the number of youth employment counselling centres in Ontario and make this a permanent program. They will play an important role in directing young people to programs that best meet their needs and will be a major link between young people and opportunities for training and jobs. The new centres will be focused on smaller communities.

9. For many young people the difference between staying in school and dropping out is the extra income they earn through a part-time job. To keep these young people in school we will have for the first time a part-time employment program. A \$1.25 per hour wage subsidy will be paid to employers who provide part-time jobs for students identified by our counselling centres to be in serious financial need.

10. We will expand the Ontario career action program and strengthen its value by focusing on training to develop more marketable skills. This year the government will increase this program's allocation from \$19 million to \$24 million. It will provide a combination of training and employment for more than 16,000 young people.

To oversee the co-ordination and design of provincial youth training and employment programs, we are appointing a youth commissioner reporting to the chairman of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. The youth commissioner will be responsible for strengthening training and practical experience in all youth programs and for placing a new emphasis on the needs of those young people whose employment problems are most severe. The commissioner will have a mandate to work aggressively with individual firms and volunteer

groups to involve them in developing or participating in new training and job programs.

Many of the new initiatives I am announcing today have never been attempted in this country. They break new ground. They will provide an opportunity for every young person to prepare for a life of useful work and independence.

We must also provide opportunities for our experienced workers to retrain and to upgrade their skills. The federal government already sponsors on-the-job training in industry and skill training in Ontario's community colleges. The province has a network of colleges and universities teaching skills and developing the techniques and knowledge necessary to adapt successfully to a changing economy. We also have a wide range of direct training initiatives.

With the new Ontario skills fund we will strengthen our commitment to retraining and skills upgrading. We will invest \$150 million over the next three years to help experienced workers adapt to economic transition and to provide skills and technical upgrading opportunities for women who want to enter or return to the labour force.

4:30 p.m.

First, we will create for the first time in Canada an incentive to establish training trust funds, which will encourage workers and firms to undertake continuous training efforts. Employers and employees will make equal hourly contributions to the trust fund. In the first year the province will match the hourly contribution of employees up to a maximum of \$100,000 for each firm. These funds will provide retraining and job security. They will also encourage more businesses to establish training programs and develop co-operative arrangements among business, labour and government.

Second, we will provide \$40 million this year for special training initiatives targeted to help women, older workers and others adversely affected by technological change. These programs will help them to complete high school education, take technical courses, upgrade skills, train in new technology and participate in on-the-job training. In particular, we are tripling our funding for the technical upgrading program from \$4 million to \$12 million. This will provide new opportunities for women who want to improve their qualifications so they can enter the work force or benefit from more advanced technical training.

Third, we will create a new incentive to help older workers who have been laid off. Employers who hire and train laid-off workers over age 45

will receive a \$2,000 incentive when the employee has been on the job for one year. Older workers who have lost their jobs as a consequence of economic change face a distinct and serious set of problems. This measure will provide special support to help them acquire marketable skills.

Fourth, the government will provide financial assistance to unemployed help centres run by trade unions. During our prebudget consultations, the Ontario Federation of Labour emphasized that these centres provide important counselling, advice and support for laid-off workers. Therefore, we have decided to provide funding to keep these centres open this year.

The initiatives I have outlined today represent a major and strategic investment in the future of our province and in the quality of life of our people. To summarize, we will provide new opportunities for experience and training by:

- Co-ordinating all programs through Ontario youth opportunities;

- Mobilizing business involvement in youth training and counselling through Ontario Youth Trust;

- Providing valuable experience in jobs in the community through Ontario youth corps;

- Creating a new residential centres program to train disadvantaged youth;

- Giving training and basic work skills to hard-to-employ youth with Ontario youth start;

- Providing training and experience for young people through Ontario youth tourism;

- Targeting higher wage subsidies to youth who most need jobs through Ontario youth work opportunities;

- Offering interest-free loans for out-of-school youth to start new businesses;

- Expanding to 100 the number of youth employment counselling centres;

- Creating an incentive for part-time jobs for students in financial need;

- Expanding the Ontario career action program and promoting training in higher-skill jobs;

- Appointing a youth commissioner;

- Establishing a training trust fund program;

- Expanding all our special training initiatives;

- Introducing a new incentive for employers who hire and train older laid-off workers;

- Supporting unemployed help centres run by trade unions.

Many of these innovative initiatives are new to Canada. They are an important step towards building co-operation among all sectors of the economy. They present a package we are proud to place before members today.

As we adapt to a very different economic structure, high value will be placed on the entrepreneurial skills of our citizens and their ability to innovate and adopt new technologies.

As pointed out in our policy paper *Economic Transformation: Technological Innovation and Diffusion in Ontario*, universities can be the basis for growth of innovative firms; they generate scientific leadership and attract many of the best minds in Canada. We must improve the transfer of excellence in the laboratory to success in the marketplace. Consequently, I am announcing today a new initiative to improve the research capacity of our universities and to strengthen their partnership with the private sector.

We hope to generate \$90 million in new resources over the next three years to help our universities and Ryerson acquire state of the art equipment and to stimulate research activity most relevant to the innovative demands of our economy. Over this period, the province will commit \$30 million to a new university research incentive fund. We are confident that our universities will attract \$2 of investment from the private sector to match every dollar drawn from this fund. This program will be structured to meet the unique circumstances of each institution.

Through this and other initiatives, the government will spend more than \$42 million on research activities, buildings and equipment purchases for universities this year.

For many firms, immediate opportunities for increased competitiveness are provided not by new inventions, but by the rapid adoption of up-to-date processes. To improve access to advanced technologies, the government's six technology centres have created a new partnership among business, trade unions and government.

Lack of adequate financing, however, can prove a serious stumbling block to putting knowledge to work within our firms. We will reinforce our technology centres program to help ensure that funds are available to assist in modernization and retooling. The Ontario development corporations will work with the centres to assist small and medium-sized companies acquire the high-technology equipment they need. In addition, the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) will be introducing a new program to assist firms in renting robots and other high-technology equipment.

The adoption of new technologies requires not only awareness and dollars but also advanced management and technical skills. We will create a technology diffusion training program.

Through this program, Ontario's technology centres will provide educational grants to managers, engineers and technicians who are key to the technology adoption decisions of small and medium-sized firms.

The ability of our people to participate fully in the economy of the future will depend on access to and familiarity with new technologies.

I believe no child should be denied the opportunity and the right to become familiar with computers and other information technologies. The foundation of today's democracy was put in place by those who had the vision to teach the poor, as well as the rich, to read and write. If equality of opportunity is to remain the hallmark of Ontario, all our children must have fair and adequate access to the computer.

Through initiatives already under way in our schools, children in Ontario will receive a basic grounding in computer literacy.

To build on these foundations, I wish to announce what I believe to be an important new program. Through the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, our government will provide \$4 million to place 4,000 computers in communities across the province. They will be offered through service organizations, libraries and other community institutions, which will provide children with instruction and opportunities to become familiar with computers.

4:40 p.m.

Perhaps nowhere is the impact of industrial transformation more evident than in the automotive sector. To capitalize fully on emerging opportunities, our winning Canadian automotive parts firms must adapt to stay competitive.

To help meet this challenge, we will provide, through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, \$30 million as our contribution to a new three-year automotive parts investment fund. Working with the industry, we will identify opportunities in such areas as product development, plant modernization and improved management and training practices. As a partner, the government will expect commitments and contributions from firms and workers to ensure long-term competitiveness.

Our ability to respond successfully will depend, in large part, on the vigour and strength of entrepreneurs and small businesses. The job creation record of young firms is evidence of their will and ability to adjust and to innovate. We must use our resources to support these firms which create most of the new jobs in our economy. This focus was confirmed in my pre-

budget discussions with small business people and their representatives.

All members will be aware of the extraordinary measure taken by my predecessor, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), to help small businesses weather the recession. By exempting small firms from provincial corporate income tax for a three-year period, we have made a major contribution to preserving and creating employment. This has also ensured that our small firms emerged from the recession on a solid financial footing.

I have decided to continue the exemption from Ontario corporations income tax for startups and young firms. The exemption will apply to companies during their first three years of incorporation. It will mean an estimated \$45-million annual benefit to new businesses in future years, providing significant support for young firms and reinforcing our commitment to entrepreneurship.

I have decided to maintain our commitment to the very successful small business development corporations program by providing a \$25-million allocation for 1984-85. Consistent with the need to target and focus our efforts, changes will be made to increase the benefits available to new enterprises and provide pools of capital for small business in selected regions of the province.

The SBDC program will be organized into three separate funds. An amount of \$12.5 million will be available to investors in small business throughout Ontario. In addition, a special fund of \$7.5 million will be dedicated exclusively to investments in the north and east. Another special \$5-million fund will be available specifically for investments in startups.

Further, to ensure wider and more effective distribution of equity capital, additional technical changes will be made which will, for example, limit the maximum size of SBDC investments in any one small business to \$2.5 million.

Encouraging further investment in small business might be achieved most effectively through changes to the personal income tax system. Accordingly, I will be asking the federal government to join with us in looking at the following new approaches: permitting full deductibility of capital losses on shares in business startups; allowing self-administered registered retirement savings plans to invest in startups or other small businesses; and developing a special class of limited partnership, permitting the flow-through of tax deductions to investors.

These could be costly, but they may be cost-effective. Over the next few months, I intend to review carefully these and other ideas to support entrepreneurship and small business startups in our economy.

There will be a high premium on creative entrepreneurial activity during this time of profound economic transformation. While our small business tax and financing initiatives will help create a new generation of entrepreneurs, this budget goes further. We will encourage business enterprise as a career choice for women and men in our learning institutions and in the community at large. Accordingly, I am establishing a \$10-million enterprise growth fund to invest in three new entrepreneur development initiatives.

First, we will establish innovation centres in selected universities and colleges to link the marketplace and the academic community. These centres should produce hundreds of new enterprises by providing a wide variety of business and technical support to innovators who want to commercialize their ideas, products and processes.

Furthermore, these centres will provide a welcome point of entry for local businesses to draw on the expertise of our learning institutions in developing their own potential products and processes.

Second, we will provide special funding to set up enterprise centres in communities across Ontario. These centres will provide new entrepreneurs with low-cost startup space and common support services such as bookkeeping and computer facilities. Assistance will be provided on a cost-shared basis to a municipality, in conjunction with a private developer, to rent, renovate and operate appropriate facilities.

Finally, many viable new businesses have been established by employees who go out on their own, initially as suppliers to the parent firm. We will encourage that activity by assisting with the costs of evaluating the potential for spinning off certain in-house activities to other local firms or to new businesses to be operated by current employees of large firms. This is a challenge to large businesses, not only to increase their own productivity and reduce their overhead but also to participate in the creation of new enterprise.

I turn now to special initiatives to strengthen key economic sectors and help our communities address the challenges of economic change.

My prebudget meetings across the province convinced me that the effects of social and economic transformation on each community are

different and that each community must respond in a different way. Accordingly, we have designed a flexible program to aid community development in Ontario.

The province will enter into formal community economic transformation agreements with communities facing extreme structural change and where economic problems have been most severe and persistent. Under these agreements, the unique needs and potential of these communities will be assessed against the array of economic and community development programs now available. Enhanced assistance will then be tailored to individual circumstances. As part of this program, the province will cost-share with municipalities vital economic projects which will generate employment. We will commit \$20 million to these agreements this year.

The government will also establish a new \$10-million, three-year economic development program for northern Ontario. This new program will provide industrial infrastructure and, together with our new small business development corporation fund, will help diversify and strengthen the economy of the north. The Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) will be announcing details shortly.

Our investment in the agricultural sector will be increased substantially this year as we assist the farming community in transition. We have increased the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by 16.3 per cent this year. This growth reflects additional funds for new initiatives and enrichments of priority programs. The Ontario farm tax reduction program will be enriched by \$18 million to \$90 million and the beginning farmers program will provide a further \$9 million this year. Action is also being taken by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) on our \$62-million, five-year commitment to the new Ontario red meat plan and progress is being made in negotiating a national tripartite stabilization program.

4:50 p.m.

The agricultural community has consistently indicated that its fundamental concern is the cost of credit. Accordingly, I am announcing today that we are prepared to set up a national agribond program with the federal government.

In recent years Ontario and other governments have independently introduced programs to help farmers cope with the high cost of credit. My colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food is taking the lead to consolidate the various programs under a Canada-wide agribond pro-

gram. Our proposal is cost-effective and, with federal government participation, will lead to a substantial cut in borrowing costs for farmers. This is a high priority for us and we are determined to see established an appropriate national arrangement.

I am pleased to announce that the federal Minister of Finance and I have reached agreement on the funding of a new program to strengthen the management and renewal of our forests. Under this new agreement, \$150 million will be provided by the two levels of government on an equal basis over the next five years to preserve our forestry industry.

We expect to undertake new minerals programs this year. A cost-shared federal-provincial mineral development agreement, for which we are allocating funding, should provide \$30 million in support of geoscientific surveys, specific research and development projects. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) will be working on these and other mining industry initiatives. In addition, we will be releasing a paper on taxation in the mining industry for discussion with the industry and the public. I am confident this process will help us to evaluate approaches to mining taxation most appropriate for the decade ahead.

Earlier I described our new youth tourism training program. As well as providing experience for young people, it will benefit many tourist firms that might not otherwise hire additional trained staff.

Further, to address a concern of Ontario's tourist industry, I am announcing today a temporary addition to the retail sales tax refund program for visitors to Ontario. Under the accommodation tax rebate program, the five per cent retail sales tax on accommodation will be rebated to out-of-province visitors effective midnight tonight until December 31, 1984.

Finally, to ensure the long-term strength of this vital industry, I am providing funding for a five-year, \$60-million joint tourism development agreement with the federal government. When concluded, this agreement will assist new projects, enhance visitor services and help upgrade planning and marketing activities.

The challenge today is not only economic. Major changes are taking place in the social fabric of Ontario and these changes must be reflected in our actions. We want independence, good health and dignity for our seniors. We will help the disabled contribute fully to their communities and lead active, independent lives. We want to give the disadvantaged a greater

sense of purpose and self worth. We will deal compassionately with the problem of family violence. We will help those who rely on social assistance to assert their independence. We will increase access to day care for children from low-income families.

Through a range of new initiatives we will help those on social assistance who want to overcome welfare dependency to gain experience, employment and training and to participate more fully in our economy. These initiatives were raised at the federal-provincial meeting of finance ministers last December and are being developed in co-operation with the federal government under the shared-cost Canada assistance plan. They will require up to \$120 million over three years.

Currently there are 50,000 young people on direct social assistance. Many lack the experience, motivation and self-confidence they need to find a job or acquire new skills. This year we will provide new opportunities to help these young people participate in the economy. Specifically, we will enable them to go back to high school or take special upgrading classes without losing social assistance; provide counselling in job search skills and basic work habits; and offer placements in business, industry and the community so they can build self-confidence and gain some work experience.

Other initiatives will focus on young people aged 12 to 18 whose parents are on social assistance. To help them prepare for an independent, productive future, we will provide summer counselling and employment-related experience. We will also provide funding for special support services for children most in need through children's aid societies and children's mental health centres.

Further, we are developing new programs to meet the specific needs of Ontario's 60,000 single parents on social assistance, most of whom are women. Many single parents lack access to affordable day care. At the same time, there is little incentive for them to participate in training programs or look for work when new wages are offset by greatly reduced social assistance benefits.

To meet the special needs of these single parents, we will provide increased support services such as day care to enable them to go out and participate in the labour market and we will place individuals in social service agencies where they can gain job experience while providing valuable services for the elderly and other groups in the community. New initiatives will also be developed to help disabled people

who want to make the transition from social assistance to gainful employment.

We hope that up to 11,000 people will choose to take advantage of new opportunities to gain important skills and experience and thereby increase their long-term employment opportunities and possibilities. Our programs will ensure a more productive use of welfare funding. I urge employers, municipalities and social service agencies to join us in the delivery of these programs. Constructive discussions with the federal government are proceeding and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) will soon be working with municipalities on the implementation of these important new initiatives.

Access to high-quality, affordable child care is an essential requirement for many who want to participate fully in our economy, particularly for those with lower incomes. Because child care is an important part of today's economy and society, I am allocating a further \$4.8 million this year to provide 1,500 more full-time subsidized child care spaces. In addition, we will provide \$1.2 million in day care subsidies through our expanded program to assist single parents on social assistance.

We want our elderly and disabled to lead active lives in their own communities away from institutions. Many elderly and disabled people want to live with their families. However, in some cases providing shelter requires extensive home renovations, which result in increased property taxes. We must encourage, not penalize, families for their efforts to provide shelter and supportive care.

Accordingly, I am announcing today that home owners who undertake renovations or additions specifically to keep an elderly or disabled person at home and in the community will be exempt from any increase in taxable assessment that would otherwise occur. Home owners who are elderly or disabled themselves would also qualify.

5 p.m.

We will continue to provide the highest standards of service for those who need institutional care. At the same time, we will look for new and more effective alternatives so our elderly and disabled can remain active in their own communities, close to family and friends. This assessment exemption is one such initiative.

We will also expand our program of attendant care to support independence for people with serious physical disabilities. Over the next five years, the number of people benefiting from this

program will be almost doubled. In addition, a new outreach attendant care program will enable 40 severely handicapped people to remain in or return to their own homes. The total cost of these two attendant care initiatives will be in the order of \$30 million over five years.

Finally, additional funding will be provided to enable the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to help municipalities purchase special buses for the physically handicapped.

Last month I released a policy paper detailing Ontario's proposals for reform of Canada's retirement income system. As we have already indicated, Ontario will raise payments of the guaranteed annual income system for the single elderly in conjunction with increases in the federal guaranteed income supplement. By the end of 1984, our single elderly will be guaranteed a basic annual income of more than \$8,000, or 60 per cent of that provided to couples. These Gains increases will benefit 124,000 elderly persons in Ontario, most of whom are women. We are providing an additional \$27 million for these improvements.

We now support more than 118,000 rent-geared-to-income housing units in Ontario. Because housing for the least fortunate is a priority of this government, I wish to announce today that we will increase our funding to enable 3,200 more families and disabled individuals to benefit from rent-geared-to-income housing. We will spend an additional \$30 million over five years.

Last fall my colleague the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) announced new initiatives to address the urgent problem of family violence. At that time, \$4 million was allocated to improve funding for transition houses and northern family resource centres and a further \$1 million was provided for capital purposes.

Today I am announcing important enrichments to these initiatives. We will commit an additional \$3.5 million to expand shelter services for battered women and their children and to provide emergency assistance and support. Further funding will be made available through the Ontario women's directorate for a public education campaign to increase awareness of this really intolerable problem and inform victims about the help that is available.

The major initiatives I have outlined today represent a sensitive and compassionate response to the special needs of the less fortunate in our society. They reflect the commitment of this government to enable all our people to lead active, productive and independent lives.

In 1975 this government introduced a policy of fiscal restraint. At that time, we had about 11 public servants for every 1,000 residents. After nine years of restraint, we are able to provide more and better services with only nine public servants for every 1,000 residents. Further efficiencies should be achieved this year.

These efficiencies have been accompanied by appropriate compensation policies. As a transition from mandatory wage controls in the public sector, last fall we established zero to five per cent as an appropriate range for average increases in total compensation. Our fiscal policy was set to reinforce this program by limiting the payroll component of transfer payments and allocations for civil service pay. Arbitrators are required to consider the employer's ability to pay in the light of existing provincial fiscal policy. I am encouraged that most public sector employers and employees have chosen to act responsibly in following this program.

In order to keep deficits and taxes down, governments must, above all, control their own costs. Therefore, I have decided to hold our direct operating expenditures for most activities to last year's level, rather than permit them to rise with inflation. This is a difficult step, but with the continued dedication and commitment of my cabinet colleagues and their ministries, I am confident this will be achieved.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Our local governments must restrain their staffing and direct operating expenses as well. I expect them to do so this year and certainly to incorporate such restraint in their 1985 plans.

In determining our transfer payments to municipalities and school boards in 1984, we have been generous in making allowances for five per cent inflation for goods and services and a similar increase for salary costs. Therefore, local governments should be able to live with modest spending and mill rate increases provided they take as firm a stance as this government.

Unlike the province, local governments do not have to finance pressures in the health care system. Furthermore, our school boards are experiencing declining enrolments, and I expect that, on average, school mill rates can be held to increases of less than five per cent. Yet early indications are that some spending increases in the local sector this year will exceed what we consider to be appropriate.

I will be discussing with my colleagues ways in which we can more closely monitor the

spending performance of our school boards and municipalities. It should not be necessary to control mill rates formally, and I am convinced that major savings to our taxpayers can be realized without any deterioration in the high level of local services. We are determined to see this happen.

On a surprising number of occasions during my prebudget meetings, concern was raised about the visibility of school board, as well as municipal, taxes. Municipalities are now required to inform their taxpayers on annual tax bills of both school and municipal tax burdens. But there is a need to ensure that this information is provided in a very clear fashion so there is a visible link between services that are provided and the cost of those services. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) will be discussing this further with municipalities.

I also expect our own crown corporations and public agencies to follow the province's example of restraint. In some of these organizations where base salaries are relatively high, I expect salary growth rates in the future to be held below the five per cent maximum guideline introduced this year. Further, just as the province is holding its overhead expenses, I believe public agencies and corporations should demonstrate similar resolve.

We are witnessing a healthy public debate on crown corporations in Canada. We believe Ontario can benefit from an examination of its crown sector. To this end, the Ministry of Treasury and Economics is initiating a special government review that will examine the mandates of our crown corporations, including instances where privatization might better serve the public.

Mr. Conway: I dare the minister to privatize the liquor stores.

Mr. Ruston: Or Suncor.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In the light of moderating needs for government buildings, I believe significant savings for new spending priorities can be achieved through the sale or lease of government land holdings in urban and commercial areas. Where these lands can be sold, they will be.

5:10 p.m.

All of these measures will assist us in delivering quality services to our citizens and in keeping taxes or fees to a minimum, a subject to which I now turn.

In providing new measures to support economic and social transformation, I have weighed three basic factors: our ability to restrain costs, our responsibility to reduce the deficit and the taxpayer's capacity to pay more. I have attempted to strike a balance which I believe should serve the immediate and future needs of this province.

First, flat-lining our direct operating expenditures for most government activities and selling off property holdings no longer essential to our needs will secure \$75 million in necessary savings to help finance our new initiatives.

Second, fiscal responsibility demands that we move to reduce our deficit further as the economy expands. We will meet this responsibility in a prudent fashion.

Third, while economic expansion is under way, major tax increases would undermine activity and confidence. The targeted approach to spending we have adopted enables us to achieve our economic and social objectives without any major tax increases.

In addition to no tax increases, I have decided that the personal income tax surcharge of five per cent will expire on December 31, 1984, as scheduled.

Mr. Wrye: Imagine making a promise and keeping it.

Mr. Gillies: You are criticizing it.

Mr. Wrye: I am so shocked you kept a promise.

Mr. Gillies: Say something bad about it. Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand, but do not share the member's disappointment.

There are, however, three measures I believe are appropriate.

This year the increase in Ontario health insurance plan premiums will be limited to 4.9 per cent, in line with our continued commitment to the provincial restraint program. This monthly increase of \$1.40 for single persons and \$2.80 for family coverage will yield \$69 million in additional revenue.

While this is necessary and appropriate, it must be acknowledged that it is very modest when compared to more than \$800 million that was added to our health care bill last year. We must recognize that major costs are involved in protecting the excellence of our health care system. OHIP premiums have a legitimate role to play in financing these costs. While we expect the growth in health care costs to moderate this year, the proportion of costs covered by OHIP

premiums will decline. Premiums paid for 24.3 per cent of the health bill five years ago, covered only 19.5 per cent last year and will carry even less this year. I believe there should be a clear and continuing link between premiums and the cost of health care.

We have reviewed the charges levied for the right to use publicly owned water resources in the production of electrical power. Ontario Hydro is the principal user of these rights. With the exception of annual adjustments related to the rate of inflation, these water rental charges have not been increased for Ontario Hydro since 1958. Consequently, effective June 1, Ontario Hydro's water rental rates will be adjusted to reflect more accurately the value of this resource. In 1984-85, this increase in water rental rates will produce an additional \$44 million in revenue.

In provinces which have their corporate income taxes collected by the federal government, banks are required to claim the same reserves for provincial income tax purposes as claimed at the federal level. In Ontario, banks have utilized the current provisions in our statute to claim an amount greater than that claimed for purposes of federal tax. This has minimized taxes paid to Ontario. I propose to harmonize our treatment with that of the majority of the provinces by requiring that the reserve amounts claimed by banks for Ontario tax purposes not exceed those claimed for federal tax purposes. This change, effective for fiscal years ending after May 15, 1984, will increase revenues in the order of \$5 million this year.

I am also concerned that the current formula for allocating the world income and capital of banks does not provide Ontario and other provinces with their fair share of tax revenues. I will therefore propose that a complete review of the allocation rules applicable for determining the tax base for banks be undertaken by the provinces and the federal government.

Further details on these three measures are included in appendix A.

Our overriding concern and responsibility is the wellbeing of our citizens and the health of the provincial economy. The 1984-85 fiscal plan will honour these objectives and maintain our record of solid financial management.

I am pleased to report to this Legislature a reduction of \$345 million in the level of our net cash requirements for the year just ended. This reduction, from the 1983 budget projection of \$2,695,000,000 to an expected \$2,350,000,000, reverses the experience of recent years when the

deficit had to rise to help alleviate the impact of the recession on our economy and our people.

In my autumn prebudget statement I stressed that the deficit level must be reduced. Progress has been made and we will go further. For the 1984-85 fiscal year, I am projecting that provincial net cash requirements will be reduced to \$2,039,000,000. Revenues, strengthened by our strong economic performance, are now anticipated to grow by 9.6 per cent while expenditures, tempered by our commitment to restraint, will be held to 7.4 per cent.

The downward trend in Ontario's net cash requirements is especially evident when measured against total provincial spending. In 1984-85, the deficit is expected to represent 7.6 per cent of total government spending, compared to 10.8 per cent only two years ago.

5:20 p.m.

Our cash requirements can be financed from internal sources without recourse to the public capital markets. Consequently, Ontario's only capital market activity this year will be to refinance existing Treasury bill borrowing.

I want to emphasize that we are achieving this significant improvement in our net cash requirements while we are increasing our already substantial capital investments. Our borrowing is directed towards new investments of lasting value to the province. In 1984-85, the government will invest almost \$2.4 billion in upgrading and strengthening our social and economic infrastructure. No borrowing will be required to meet our operating costs.

Before concluding this important statement, I should like to acknowledge the excellent and hard work and the dedication shown by the staff of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics under the effective leadership of my deputy minister, Tom Campbell, and the assistant deputy minister for the office of budget, Mr. Bryan Davies. In addition, the leadership, guidance and patience shown by my own personal staff, headed by Michael Landry and Caroline Shirreff, was of great assistance to myself and the staff of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics in putting together this comprehensive and effective document.

As I said in my autumn statement, the 1984 budget should be both an economic and social document. I believe we have achieved that goal. This budget creates new opportunities for young people and older workers. It improves job access for women. It helps the disadvantaged and the elderly to live independently in their communities. It strengthens the role of our learning

institutions. It helps our small businesses to grow and our large firms to innovate. It encourages enterprise and entrepreneurship. It faces up to the reality of change and deals with it.

We are reaffirming our commitment to restraint. We are avoiding significant tax increases. We will reduce the deficit. Our ability to develop these wide-ranging new initiatives is due in large part to the assistance, co-operation and support of my colleagues, all of whom I wish to thank today. By building on our strong economic circumstances and enriching our network of compassionate social services, this budget honours the goals, the values and the tradition of leadership of our Premier.

Mr. Conway: That was a nice touch.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: And, unlike on the member's side, a sincere touch.

We have rejected temporary, short-term measures. Instead, this budget makes strategic long-term investments in our people and our future. It is right for our time. It is right for our people. I am confident it will make an important contribution to continued prosperity as we assist and shape Ontario's social and economic transformation.

On motion by Mr. T. P. Reid, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, May 17, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 17, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

GIFT FOR MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I know many of you have been asking yourselves where the oranges came from.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No.

Mr. Speaker: I heard you discussing it as I came in, and that is why I am going to explain. They are a gift from the young people of the Lake Wales Florida Highlander Band, which entertained us so eloquently at noon hour, and they are given with the best wishes of those people.

An hon. member: I thought we were comparing apples with oranges in the Treasurer's (Mr. Grossman) budget.

Mr. Speaker: No, no.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1985, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly. Signed by John Black Aird, Toronto, May 17, 1984.

TELEVISION IN LEGISLATURE

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I noticed during the extravaganza on Tuesday afternoon that the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., which is funded by taxpayers' funds, had erected television cameras in this chamber over there and over there. Of course, the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) had a special microphone mounted on his coat, and we had the potential at least for full coverage of the Treasurer's speech, which naturally was self-congratulatory, and that is part of the process.

However, I note today, when the two opposition spokespersons, the critic of the official opposition and the critic of the third party, will be providing their replies to the budget, the television cameras have been removed by the CBC. As the guardian with a great sense of fairness, which apparently does not go as far as those who make the decisions with the CBC, would you not

prevail upon those who asked special permission to have the cameras erected in the House to do it for at least the duration of the speech by the Treasurer and the two opposition critics, instead of playing one side only?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the people concerned have heard your request and I will be pleased to transmit it in case they have not.

I would just point out to the honourable member that the request for the coverage was made by the CBC and not vice-versa.

Mr. Bradley: I would just like a further very brief point—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I was just going to say that was not really a point of order and I was going to so rule after having said all that.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have another point that was related and might be a point of order. Would you not agree that it is one of the arguments militating in favour of an electronic Hansard in this House?

Mr. Speaker: It is hardly a point of order and I am not going to comment on it.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on that same point of order—and I see the government House leader listening—it is entirely within the purview of any television channel to decide on its own what it believes to be newsworthy and what is not. However, because of the willingness of one station to broadcast the Treasurer's statement with respect to the budget, it might be worth while for the House leaders to sit down and reconsider in a very practical way how opposition replies can perhaps be included as part of the budget day, at least in some preliminary form, so some equal access to the magic of television is granted to all members of the Legislature.

In addition, surely it is long overdue for the government to come creeping, unwilling as I know it is, into the 20th century and recognize that Toronto is the capital of the telecommunications industry in this country and that it is another absurdity that we do not have a televised Hansard for all the citizens of the province to watch, without in any way affecting the right of television stations to decide in their own editorial judgement what they want to run with and what they deem to be news.

Those are two separate issues. I hope very much the government will finally come into the 20th century and recognize the need for change.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the honourable member very much, but I must point out, as he already knows, that was neither a point of order nor of privilege. However, I did let him continue so the message would be transmitted to the individual House leaders.

HAMILTON GO-ALRT

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I would like very briefly to correct a misconception that may exist in the minds of people living in my community flowing from the reporting of a question I raised on Monday.

In response to a question raised by myself, the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) said, "All I can say is they certainly have not been made"—and this is in regard to allegations of threats—"by me or by anyone representing me. I cannot suggest what threats the member may have made to the people of Hamilton."

I just want to state categorically I have made no threats concerning the GO proposals in our community whatsoever.

2:10 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH COMMISSIONER

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce to the House Mr. Ken Dryden of Toronto, who has just been appointed youth commissioner for Ontario, effective June 1.

[Applause]

Mr. Dryden, who has just been acknowledged, is seated in the Speaker's gallery with Blair Tully, the secretary of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. Mr. Dryden will oversee the implementation of Ontario youth opportunities, which I described to the members on Tuesday during the presentation of my budget.

As I said at that time, Ontario youth opportunities is the key building block of our three-year commitment to provide money and direction for new and expanded programs to provide the training and experience our young people need to find and keep jobs.

As youth commissioner, Mr. Dryden will report to me as chairman of BILD and will have as his terms of reference the responsibility to oversee the co-ordination of youth employment

and training policy development; make recommendations on reallocations within the youth opportunities fund; make recommendations to the chairman of BILD on additional allocations from BILD; recommend initiatives where necessary, and advise ministries with specific delivery responsibilities.

In addition, the commissioner will be president or chief executive officer of the nonprofit, private sector corporation charged to initiate, develop and support pre-employment training and employment opportunities for hard-to-employ youth.

In Ken Dryden we have found a person with the personality, judgement and commitment to provide the leadership and direction to mobilize the public and private sectors of Ontario society to the task of providing an opportunity for every young person in Ontario to prepare for a life of useful work and independence. I know all members of the House will join me in welcoming him and in promising him our full support for the very important task he is undertaking.

ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, later today I will be introducing An Act to amend the Assessment Act.

First, this bill enacts the new disabled and seniors in the community program introduced by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) in his budget on May 15. As the members will recall, this new program will provide property tax exemptions for improvements, alterations and additions undertaken to allow disabled or senior citizens to continue living in their homes rather than in special care facilities.

Second, this bill will raise the general ceiling which allows property owners to make repairs and modest improvements to their homes without incurring increases to their assessments and subsequently to their tax bills. This ceiling will be raised from the current \$2,500 market value level to \$5,000, effective after May 15, 1984.

The \$2,500 ceiling was established in 1971 and, at that time, was considered a reasonable dollar level to allow property owners to undertake repairs, maintenance and modest improvements without a tax penalty. Today this ceiling has been eroded by inflation, so it is now difficult to distinguish between nonassessable maintenance activities and minor alterations and additions that would otherwise be taxable.

This new \$5,000 limit will be more reflective of today's property maintenance and construction costs, thereby providing a workable margin within which ratepayers can make reasonable

improvements to their homes without property tax increases. Major additions and renovations to properties beyond this new level will continue to be assessed and taxed in the usual way.

The Treasurer and I have agreed that this second measure in the bill is consistent with the new disabled and seniors in the community program, in that home owners generally should receive similar encouragement to maintain and improve their properties themselves so they may continue to remain comfortable in their own homes.

ORAL QUESTIONS

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. First, I congratulate him on his dispatch in creating one job. I want to ask him a question about his youth employment-unemployment program.

We have been waiting months for specifics. We have heard the grand rhetoric of the Treasurer, the Premier (Mr. Davis) and others saying that programs would be forthcoming, yet specifics were always awaiting the budget we saw on Tuesday last. So that the Treasurer is not accused of bringing in a document of deception or of perpetrating a fraud on those 169,000 unemployed young people in this province, I want to give him an opportunity to say very specifically what he is going to do. How many placements is he going to create this year? How many person-years of work is he going to create? When is he going to do that?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition that some of us are not enamoured of the kind of politics and economics, some would call it, that pretend government spending programs are going to solve problems if all they do is take a group of people, send them out to paint a fence for a few weeks and then have to do the same thing with the same kids next year.

Let me say that the Leader of the Opposition still seems to cling to the old-time economics that speaks of those kinds of short-term jobs. If he would look over the innovative, first time in Canada initiatives undertaken by us in Tuesday's budget, he would see that we acknowledge that the challenge is to equip and train our young people so that in the medium and longer term they do not turn into chronically unemployed persons.

I have no apologies whatsoever for saying that. While the member may cling to the proposition that politics and economics dictate

that a government buy up some jobs for a period of weeks, this government and this side of the House believe that long-term sensible investments in our young people to solve the problem and alleviate the problem in the longer term is the right way to go.

I might say it indicates a distinct and important difference between the member's party and the policies it puts forward and the kind of investments we put forward on this side of the House.

Mr. Peterson: That is just a crock and the Treasurer knows it. He has brought in Ken Dryden to repair the damage of the government's educational system. That is what the Treasurer is trying to do now. He is putting a hell of a load on his shoulders.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I am asking specifically how many jobs the Treasurer is going to create. Is this just rhetoric, a shell game, a reorganization, or is the Treasurer going to do something specific? He should not give me one of his two-bit lectures. We want results for 169,000 kids in this province.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand the shortness of temper of the Leader of the Opposition. I know it has been a tough week. He was ready for tax increases. They said, "David, my God, there are no tax increases in the budget." Then he was really worked up expecting the income tax surcharge to be extended. His second disappointment was that he did not get that.

I know the major disappointment he had. He was waiting for the Conference Board of Canada. He knew he would be bailed out when his favourite predicting agency would say my estimates for growth in Ontario were overstated and they—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for York South.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer can avoid the questions all he wants to. He can perpetrate the fraud for as many times as he wants, but a fraud is a fraud is a fraud. That is exactly what he is putting forward today.

I would like to ask the Treasurer, what is long-term about the Ontario Youth Corps program? This is exactly the same as programs with another name that he cancelled. The residential centres program is a similar program with another short-term name; youth tourism is the

same as an earlier program that was cancelled. It is the same money; there is no new money at all.

Despite his much-heralded \$600-million program—which some people were naive enough to think is what he has actually done—when it comes right down to it, with respect to new money, can he confirm what he is going to be spending this year? Can he confirm that his officials told us in the briefing on Tuesday that the amount of new money that was going to be spent was \$60 million on youth programs, which is less than he is collecting from the racetracks?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, that is a cute turn of phrase. I can confirm that the amount will be at least the amount the honourable member indicated. In his depression, while he was in the lockup, he may forget I was the one who gave him that figure.

Mr. Rae: No. The Treasurer did not.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did.

May I also say I understand he does not have too many taxes to scream about, and I understand the pressure he is under to find something here, lest he resort only to saying things such as these programs are frauds. Let me say that while I was delivering that budget on Tuesday and while my colleagues were carefully listening to it, I was able to catch the member saying, every time we mentioned some of these first-time-in-Canada programs that he liked, that it was his idea. I was amused therefore to be watching TV that night and hear him saying to the cameras that there was nothing new in the budget.

Had I adopted his suggestions, he would have been right: there would have been nothing new in the budget. While he decides which side he is going to take—the side he took in the House, that there were lots of new programs and he wanted to own them; or the proposition he stated outside this House in front of the cameras, that there was nothing new in the budget—the reality is that if he goes down the list of programs, there are programs that he cannot deny have never been tried before in Canada, never suggested in this assembly. If he wants to ask a supplementary, I will be pleased to deal with it.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer is absolutely impossible. He says he has these wonderful new programs and he will not tell us what they are. He has new titles and no new programs. Who is he trying to kid?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Why does the Treasurer expect anybody to believe him more than they did when he said he was going to raise taxes to give the

impression that he is such a nice fellow? He is the one who created the impression of increased taxes, not me.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: He is the one who perpetrated the deliberate fraud and hoax.

I have a specific question. How does the Treasurer expect the young people to believe that those jobs are going to be forthcoming? When are they going to be forthcoming? We do not know when the programs will be kicking in. We have some indication that the winter Experience program will not be going ahead in October; we do not know its replacement.

We know he did not spend some \$21 million allocated last year, principally because of the failure of the young Ontario career program. We also know he was notified by the feds in December or January that he had the additional \$250 million coming forward that he could have used on youth programs, but he did not; he took credit for it yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: How does the Treasurer expect people to believe him when he is not telling us anything?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Leader of the Opposition really should be careful. Just to set the record straight, I spent the weekend reading, with enjoyment, his speeches to the Toronto and District Liberal Association where he predicted massive new tax increases for the province. He said the surcharge would be extended. He said Ontario health insurance premiums would go up well in excess of five per cent; he was the one who was saying it would be a great error to do that.

We agreed, but let us not suggest he was not the major purveyor of the impression, at least to his own groups, that taxes were going to increase dramatically this year. He was also the major purveyor of the information that there was no way that this government could reduce the deficit. We have reduced it significantly.

Let me say quite clearly that there are those members who would opt for programs such as the Liberal Party put forward last fall, programs that would have created jobs, for \$100 million, for 14,000 young people for six months, and then those kids would be unemployed. The Liberal leader would be standing up to say there was too much spending and the deficits were too large, and six months later the kids would be unemployed again.

Let us be clear that this party stands for important, long-term investments in our young people. This party does not stand for Liberal Party make-work, short-term projects. I have no apologies for that.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Treasurer as he stands there, searching through his binder to find all the old speeches and press clippings, having as much fun as he wants. He is absolutely factually wrong in what he is saying in this House.

In terms of his responsibility, how many jobs is he going to create? Has he got specific youth programs or does he just have titles for them? When are they going to start? Do we have to wait another year? The Treasurer has been bleeding in his compassionate way. He thinks compassion involves just mouthing the word. He has been giving us all those phoney statements in this House, as has the Premier (Mr. Davis).

When is he going to start? How many jobs? How many of those 169,000 young people are going back to work? When are they going to be trained? When are his programs starting? Surely these are not unreasonable questions to ask the chief architect of the economic policy of this province.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, a lot of those kids are going to be working this summer. There are training opportunities—

Mr. O'Neil: How many?

Mr. Boudria: How many? That is the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me say this clearly, because I know it is a problem for the Liberal members. There are job opportunities: part-time, full-time, with full wage subsidy, with partial wage subsidy. There are training opportunities. There are residential centre opportunities. There are opportunities through the federal government programs. There are 400,000 positions through community college programs. Beginning now, there is an opportunity for every young person in Ontario.

Mr. Peterson: Nobody believes that. The Treasurer has program titles. I have read his 10-point program. When is it kicking in? When is the Ontario Youth Corps starting? When are the residential centres opening up? How many young people are going to get an opportunity? How many is he going to help through the Ontario youth start program? Let us start getting specific. The Treasurer has to have some responses to those kids who are out on the street. This has

been a problem for years, if only he would recognize it. I want to know when it is going to happen.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Ontario youth work opportunities subsidy program is under way under the auspices of the customary summer wage programs, this year beginning to focus on our young people most in need. There is \$80 million—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: This is like the budget. When the members get the details, they are so unhappy with them that they cannot keep quiet and listen.

There is \$80 million outlined in the budget. Let us not pretend the \$80 million is not in the budget; it can be found on page 4, item 6, an \$80-million program in operation. My colleague is beginning now to establish additional youth employment counselling centres. Many of them will be up and running in months, some in weeks, most by the end of this year.

The tourism program will be in operation this summer. Rather than delay the implementation of Ontario Youth Trust while we waited for a youth commissioner, we got on to that right away. As I outlined in my statement, it will be one of Mr. Dryden's first priorities. The Ontario Youth Corps will be up and running this summer. We expect the residential centres program will be in operation this fall. We expect the Ontario youth start program will be in place late this summer or early fall. The venture capital incentive program also will be in place this summer or fall.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Treasurer. I think you have given enough examples.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would be pleased to complete the awesome list for the member.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, when the Treasurer says every young person will have an opportunity to prepare for a life of useful work, that has to be taken just about as seriously as the Wintario ads that say everybody who purchases a Wintario ticket has an opportunity to win the lottery. That is the kind of approach he is taking; it is a lottery approach.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: There are 170,000 young people out there, and he has cheated them of a chance to win; he has cheated them of a chance to find a job. That is the reality. I think the Treasurer has

to come clean and say how he expects to find work for 170,000 young people when he is prepared to invest only \$60 million to \$80 million this year. How does he seriously expect them to be able to find those jobs?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the third party is dead wrong. He suggests we are prepared to spend only \$60 million to \$80 million this year. He knows, or was told, we will be spending \$160 million to \$180 million this year.

Mr. Rae: New money.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: New money.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That may not be a lot of money to the honourable member.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer should not talk about old money. He cancelled those programs. Why does he not talk about the programs he has cut?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am repeating the member's allegation. He said a moment ago we were prepared to spend only \$60 million to \$80 million on young people this year, and I am pointing out that he was modestly out; he was out only \$100 million.

I am comfortable in saying to the member that this is the right amount of money for our young people—far more than he, in truth, was expecting, with far more programs than he ever dreamed of on his best night.

Mr. Peterson: I note with great interest that one of the mandates of Mr. Dryden will be to oversee the co-ordination of youth employment and training policy development. I assume this is a tacit admission of the failure of the education system because of underfunding and because of the ill-timed and inappropriate policies of the Treasurer's colleague.

What role does his colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) have in this new training thrust? Or has she been muscled aside, where perhaps she should be?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The honourable member makes a fundamental error, may I say very seriously. His error is to presume that things in this caucus and in this government are handled in the way things are handled in his caucus. There is on this side of the House something unknown to his side, truly a team effort. These initiatives have been put together by this cabinet to make sure these programs work. These programs—

Mr. Bradley: You fired the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) to replace him with Dryden.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand this is all the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) has left. He does not have the tax increases; he does not have the increased deficit; he does not have the conference board; he does not have overstated predictions by the Treasurer. He is stripped dry, with nothing left. I have no apologies to make for the fact that he is embarrassed and empty this Thursday afternoon.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, if it is a team effort, Mr. Dryden is going to have to get used to stopping an awful lot more pucks than he was stopping when he was a goalie for the Montreal Canadiens, because he is not going to be getting any assistance from anybody else on the team. There is going to be a pretty poor defensive effort from the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and anybody else.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer should understand that the frustration we have with respect to this budget is its absolute and total emptiness with respect to dealing with the problem of unemployment and dealing with the problems of tax fairness. That is our frustration.

I was in my constituency office last night, talking to unemployed construction workers. There is nothing in this budget for those people. They had to go away empty-handed because the Treasurer had not done anything for those people whatsoever.

Specifically, I would like to ask the Treasurer what is happening in northern Ontario. The Statistics Canada figures for unemployment in Sudbury alone showed an unemployment rate of nearly 17 per cent in April 1984. The Treasurer will know that there are going to be nearly 9,000 people coming off the unemployment rolls and going on to welfare in the period up until October of this year, including more than 3,000 people in June and July alone. There is nothing in this budget for those people.

How does the Treasurer justify doing nothing for those people? Specifically, how does he justify the incredible cutbacks in the expenditures, in the investments of the Ministry of Northern Affairs over the last two years, a dramatic reduction? Why are they not mentioned in the text of his speech at the same time as he talks about this \$3.3-million fund that the

Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) is going to be implementing over this next year?

Mr. Stokes: You have not got a Detour Lake, but you have got a Hemlo. What are you doing about it? Talk to your Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is going great.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member thinks the Ministry of Northern Affairs is delivering fewer services and fewer programs to northern Ontario, then I would support an increase in allocation yet again for his research office.

He suggests we are doing nothing for the people of Sudbury. May I indicate quite clearly that because, and only because, of the suggestions put forward to me by the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) on this side of the House, the first community to qualify for and be included in community economic transformation agreement assistance will be the city of Sudbury.

Mr. Rae: That is pretty timid support over there. I think the Treasurer has to realize that at the end of the year the unemployment rate in northern Ontario and the unemployment rate in southern Ontario are going to be exactly the same, even based on his most optimistic forecasts.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: It could well be worse than it is today as a result of the budget he has brought down, which does nothing to deal with the problem of unemployment.

Since the Treasurer is challenging some figures, can he confirm that on page 41, under expenditure items from general government, Northern Affairs was spending \$180 million in 1982-83, and the estimated 1984-85 expenditure will be \$159 million? If that is not a reduction in investment in northern Ontario, I do not know what is.

Specifically, how does the Treasurer expect northern Ontario to face the future with a sense of confidence and a sense of optimism if his government is going to be ruthlessly cutting back the ministry that is responsible for transfer funds to the north?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As the member's Northern Affairs critic might have told him had he asked, the apparent reduction, of course, is due to the phasing out of two one-time-only extraordinary expenditures, which were Detour Lake and Minaki Lodge. They were one-time-only add-ons.

Mr. Stokes: And now you have Hemlo—\$10 billion.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) suggests it is important for us to continue to flow money to Minaki, I will consider that.

With respect to our support for the north, we have in this budget alone the community economic transformation agreements, Sudbury being the first city to qualify. We have the small business development corporations, which are tilted towards northern and eastern Ontario for the first time.

Mr. Wildman: Only \$7.5 million for northern and eastern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: You have cut back on the SBDCs. What are you talking about?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The members opposite really have to get better researchers. We designated \$7.5 million out of the SBDCs to northern and eastern Ontario.

I might take this opportunity to say I was delighted to see the member endorse SBDCs through what he called the municipal development corporations. I was delighted to see his reliance finally on government programs to stimulate private sector economic activity, and I welcome him as he endorses one of our most important economic tools. I have one bit of advice, though: had he done his homework the other day he would have discovered that we do not need legislation, we do not need any changes to allow municipalities to invest in small business development corporations.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the only program under youth opportunities that seems to be directed specifically towards northern youth would be the Ontario youth tourism program, and yet I notice that in order for the program to work the minister is asking tourist operators, who we all know are already very hard pressed financially, to create 2,500 new jobs at a cost of \$100 per week each.

This means the Treasurer is asking the hard-pressed tourist operators to cough up \$1 million a month to subsidize one of his programs—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: I have to ask the Treasurer what contribution he is making.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, this program is widely welcomed, as my colleagues and even the honourable member's colleagues will tell him, by the tourist industry. It will allow tourist operators, unlike any other employers in the province, to gain additional help if they want it.

No one is obliging anyone to participate in the program. If they want young people who can learn the industry and eventually work in it, then they can get young people who are trained by the community colleges in tourism. They can hire them to supplement their employment base for \$100 per week.

As I have talked to people in the industry, they have told me one of their major problems is the cost of hiring additional staff. If we could develop a program that would give them kids who are at least somewhat trained, they would be quite happy to assist in that program by hiring those people at \$100 a week. This will be an oversubscribed program. The tourism industry is delighted, overjoyed, with the program.

If the member turns and asks the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins), he will tell him it is one of the most important things we have done for the tourism industry in a long time.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, has the Treasurer been made aware by his colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs that we now have on stream at Hemlo something much bigger than Detour Lake, with gold reserves worth \$10 billion to \$12 billion and counting? The communities are forced to provide the hard and soft services for the work force that will be domiciled there and yet they lack the ability to tax this new wealth.

What is the minister going to do for communities such as White River, Marathon and Manitouwadge, one of which is under the supervision by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing? What within the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs will address that situation? That area is creating \$10 billion of new wealth and not a penny is in the budget.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I regret the member is troubled by the proposition there is billions of dollars' worth of new activity in northern Ontario which occurred in large measure without government support.

I have been listening to the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Rae) suggest that nothing is happening in Ontario and that our economy has ground to a halt. I welcome the member's endorsement and the provision of information by him to his leader about what is happening in northern Ontario—

Mr. Stokes: The minister does not understand. That is his problem.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Indeed, I have visited those communities. I have visited that area. I have discussed at some length with my colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs the various steps that have been taken. There is a co-ordinating committee at work, as the member knows, and the Minister of Northern Affairs is well equipped to provide the necessary assistance to those very important developments.

Mr. Stokes: Not without supplementary estimates.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They are there, and he is working on it. It is evidence of the climate in Ontario and the boom that is going on in that part of the province. It well sustains our prediction of 4.7 per cent growth, which the member's leader denies but which even the Conference Board of Canada endorsed this morning.

Mr. Rae: It is not Ontario that has ground to a halt; it is the Tory government that has ground to a halt. That is the issue. It has been sleepwalking through this session. The minister has been sleepwalking through this session and he sleepwalked through the budget. There is nothing in it to provide jobs and opportunities for the people of this province. That is the fundamental reality.

TAX BURDEN

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, in 1980-81 the province was receiving about \$3.5 billion in personal income tax and at the same time was receiving \$1.4 billion in corporate income tax. Can the Treasurer confirm that in 1984-85, according to his own figures, he expects to receive about \$7 billion, twice as much, in personal income tax from the average taxpayers of this province, at the same time as he is going to receive less this year from the corporate sector than he did four years ago?

How does he expect the average taxpayer to survive when he sees that kind of unfairness and discrepancy between the taxes being paid by corporations and the taxes being paid by individuals in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, first, let me say that part of the reason for that is the important small business tax holiday that small businesses have had for the past three years, a step, I remind the member, which I believe had the endorsement of him and his party and a step he complained about the other day in terms of its not continuing. That accounts for part of it.

Second, and most important, the major cause of that shift was that five or six years ago

corporate profits in Ontario accounted for 12 per cent of the gross provincial product. Because of the recession, corporate profits dropped to only six per cent of gross provincial product in Ontario. With that very significant reduction, it is obviously not at all surprising that their share of the total tax load declined. In simple terms, the base upon which the tax was calculated dropped by 50 per cent.

Happily, as corporate profits improve, even though the member would have us tax them away, their natural share of the tax burden will increase.

Mr. Rae: The fundamental fact remains that the family making \$15,000 a year pays more in taxation in Ontario than in any other province. That situation has deteriorated as a result of the budget and nothing has been done to address the fundamental inequities of the tax system in the province. In fact, the Treasurer has only made it worse.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: With respect to the much-vaunted tax credit program that the Treasurer spends so much time taking credit for, why has he done nothing to enrich that program so that seniors are able to live in their own homes for a longer period of time and so that people with middle incomes can get some kind of relief from the degree of property tax falling on them? Why has he done nothing to enrich the program and take into account the rate of inflation? Why has he done nothing about the fact that the value of tax credits has been decimated over the last decade?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us get this in some perspective. In 1981, in terms of the Ontario health insurance plan premiums the member likes to complain about, the level for premium assistance for a single wage earner would have been \$3.22 an hour. Now it is \$3.72 an hour. There has been a significant raising of the threshold for full premium assistance for wage earners over the past three years.

Let us also acknowledge that the circumstance the member structures for what he calls an average person earning \$15,000 is not really average. He has not taken into account a great deal of deductions, credits and benefits that are received by that family, and the real circumstance that very few people find themselves in exactly the circumstance he constructs to put forward that particular argument.

If he compares average tax loads across the broad base of those who are at or around the average industrial wage in Ontario, he will find

that we are extremely competitive with the rest of Canada.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Rae: To respond, out of all the questions that have been put to him today, could the Treasurer try to answer one—this one. Why did he not do anything to enrich the tax credit program to take into account the dramatic increases in the cost of living? The real value of the tax credit is nothing compared to what it was 10 years ago.

How does the Treasurer explain the fact that in the city of York, for example, the average property taxes are about \$1,600 or \$1,700, many of them being borne exclusively by senior citizens, and the value of his tax grant is \$500? It still means that family is paying \$1,200, which is directly contrary to what the Premier, in 1977, said would be happening. How does he justify the failure to do anything to enrich the property tax credits in his budget?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As I have indicated, we, unlike the New Democratic Party, do not presume that one example is in any way reflective of what is happening out there.

GRANGE COMMISSION INQUIRY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General will be aware that in his absence in his various trips abroad there has been a discussion in this House with the Premier (Mr. Davis) about the terms of reference of the Grange commission.

My understanding is that the commissioner has made the determination that he must come to the Attorney General and the cabinet to clarify the terms of reference of the order in council that gave his commission life.

Assuming the Attorney General has received that request—if he has not received it, I am sure he is aware he is about to receive it—is he prepared to clarify those terms of reference so that the commissioner fully understands his responsibility to inquire into the conduct of public officials in the pursuit of public duties and that he has the full power in those circumstances to name names and to assign responsibility wherever that may lie?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have received a letter from the distinguished commissioner Mr. Justice Grange, together with his statement with regard to proceedings in phase 2. In his letter, the commissioner has asked me to consider an amendment to paragraph 4 of the original terms of reference in order to clarify the situation and avoid what he indicates may be extensive litigation. He certainly points out in his

reasons, as I read them, that this is a very complex and difficult matter.

In view of the clear request by the commissioner, I certainly will very seriously consider some clarification, but in the context of carrying out the original intent of the terms of reference in relation to stage 2—to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the investigation and the prosecution of Miss Nelles—I will be giving very serious consideration to how we might be able to do this without inviting the commissioner to appear to make findings of civil responsibility which obviously could, at the very least, be perceived to interfere with the ongoing litigation.

I do not underestimate the difficulty of our challenge, but every effort will be made to accommodate the commissioner in order that he may proceed to phase 2 of the proceedings.

Mr. Peterson: As the Attorney General knows, the ball is now clearly in his court. We did have discussions in his absence about the responsibility of the Premier. I was one of those who, in looking at and reading about what the various counsel were saying, believed there was so much confusion that the cabinet should have taken the responsibility and the leadership at that point.

That being said, we are now in the position where that is in the past. The Attorney General now has a specific request.

I know he wants to avoid the appearance of a coverup. There are a number of people in his own ministry, as well as the Ministry of the Solicitor General and others, who have responsibilities and when the truth comes out it may not be very pleasant for some of his officials, but I want him to assure this House and the people of this province that there will be no reason for anyone in this province to feel there is a coverup; that the Attorney General clearly wants the commissioner to get at all of the truth and to assign that responsibility wherever it may lie so that hopefully, once and for all, we know what happened and any parties that deserve to be named should be named. That is his responsibility. I would ask him to exercise that responsibility.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I do not want to be unduly repetitive but it is certainly my intention to facilitate the efforts of the royal commissioner proceeding with stage 2 of the proceedings and at the same time recognizing the importance of the original principle enunciated in this legislation: that a royal commission is not a substitute for a trial, be it criminal or civil.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the Attorney General's answer. What he appears to be saying is that a private lawsuit should somehow affect the proceedings of a royal commission of inquiry. That is a point of view which is not acceptable to us and I do not think it is acceptable to most people in the province.

Can the Attorney General give us the assurance, first, that the letter from Mr. Justice Grange will be made public? Second, can he assure us that the clarification from the Attorney General will specifically allow the commissioner to conduct the inquiry fully and in public and not restrict him in terms of making findings of fact which are essential if the commission is to be able to do its job? I hope he can give us that assurance today.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I will simply repeat the assurance I gave the public of this province more than a year ago. I believe it was in the public interest for there to be public accountability in relation to the activities of those involved with the investigation that led to the prosecution of Miss Nelles. I certainly stand by that earlier commitment.

Obviously, the efforts I am going to make to assist or facilitate the responsibilities of the commissioner in carrying out that mandate will have my earlier commitment, which I reiterate today, uppermost in my mind.

OHIP PREMIUMS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to the Treasurer, who in his answers today has brought supercilious shallowness to an art form.

In his budget he has ignored the very harsh realities affecting many people in our society. Why he has not responded, as it looked like he might on April 24, to the fact that minimum-wage earners and other people in the working poor are not going to be covered by premium assistance, or are going to have to start paying at least part of their premiums over the next little while?

Premiums in the last three years have gone up 50 per cent. The Treasurer admits today that \$3.72, not \$3.85, is the highest level to which he will provide full premium assistance to the working poor. Why was there nothing in his budget for those people?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, let us have a glance at that budget. It removed the personal income tax surcharge, something the honourable member was not expecting to have

happen. It increased Ontario Health Insurance Plan premiums by only \$1.40 per month for a single person.

When I looked back at the change between 1981 and 1984, I discovered that because of indexing of exemptions the assistance levels have changed dramatically. In fact, for the family the member put out as a typical example—and there would not be a broad base of people caught by his description of the facts he put together—none the less, if that were the case, the reality is that for partial assistance in 1981 the taxable income level was \$6.54 an hour and it is now \$7.43 an hour.

There would have to be a circumstance in which, as he postulates, both wage earners were working at a minimum wage in both 1981 and 1984 and did not have all the exemptions kicking into place. That would be a fairly unusual but not unheard of circumstance.

The changes necessary to accommodate those people would have cost a great deal of money and would have meant an increase in tax rates somewhere along the line for them and for other people. It just does not work out. If we are going to raise premium assistance, we are going to have to pick it up somewhere else.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Treasurer will understand that it does not have to be those people who pick up that extra cost.

I have two supplementaries. Will the Treasurer not admit that if he looks at any of the poverty lines established in Canada at the moment, the people at those poverty lines, whether they are single or in any of the other categories, will not be eligible for full premium assistance in Ontario?

He talks about the \$7 and so on for which people can get some partial assistance. If that is the case and it is so helpful to people, then why did only 2,098 working families in Ontario last year receive partial assistance? That is only two per cent of the general group. If that is so available and so helpful to those people, why did such a small percentage participate in that program?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: A great number of them or their spouses are working for firms that have group plans and, therefore, they are covered. That is a fact.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The Treasurer knows the majority of the working poor are not covered by their employers.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, can the Treasurer tell the House why he would have effectively

brought in an implementation date for the new OHIP premiums that will force OHIP to send out new bills or new notices to groups and individuals to collect one month of the three-month period that is now due from June 1 to the end of August? Why will those individuals have to spend their time and their money to send, in many individual cases, the grand total of either \$1.40 or \$2.80 to the Treasury? How much is it going to cost him to collect that extra \$8.5 million for the month of August?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, it will cost us very little because of the computerized system that is used to accomplish it.

CONTRACT FOR AIRCRAFT

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Northern Affairs.

Yesterday we were in Sault Ste. Marie. Why was the contract for the Dash-8 plane and the \$2-million construction contract for a hangar that will employ 35 people given to Sault Ste. Marie when the Thunder Bay proposal backed by Nordair which met all the qualifications was rejected? I think the people of Thunder Bay deserve an answer.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for Fort William. I think the people of Thunder Bay deserve an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Lake Nipigon on a point of order.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Do you think it appropriate that the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Affairs should be openly criticizing his minister?

Mr. Speaker: Whether I think it is or not is immaterial.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that the honourable member—

Mr. Ruston: Pardon me, Mr. Speaker, but that is against the rules.

Mr. Speaker: I think not.

Mr. Laughren: Does he know it is Mickey?

Mr. Cooke: Does Mickey know he is the parliamentary assistant?

Mr. Speaker: I think the parliamentary assistant made it quite clear he was asking the question as a member and not as a parliamentary assistant.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: When is a parliamentary assistant not a parliamentary assistant?

Mr. Speaker: I know quite well what rule the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) is referring to.

Mr. Ruston: I am correct.

Mr. Speaker: That is his interpretation of it. My interpretation is that the parliamentary assistant was asking a question on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Since you have ruled this way, would it be appropriate for the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Ramsay) to ask a question on behalf of his constituents? Despite the fact that he is a member of the cabinet, could he ask a question on behalf of his constituents?

Mr. Speaker: Stop the clock for a minute. We are going to have a consultation.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I want to answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether the member for Sault Ste. Marie should perhaps answer it.

An hon. member: Stop the clock.

Mr. Speaker: There are nine minutes and one second left in question period. I have made a note of that.

The standing orders state quite clearly that the honourable member, as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Affairs, is out of order and I cannot allow the question.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: May I redirect my question to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch)?

Mr. Speaker: I would point out to the honourable member that the standing orders require the minister to redirect, not the individual member.

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Northern Affairs. The people of Thunder Bay would like to know why the Dash-8 contract was awarded yesterday to Air-Dale and Austin Airways and why the decision was made for a certain hangar to be built in Sault Ste. Marie instead of or in lieu of Thunder Bay.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for Cochrane North and, of course, the member for Fort William because I know the people of Thunder Bay want the answer to that question, and I am pleased to give it to them.

I would point out to the honourable member that proposals were called about a year ago for the operation of the new Dash-8 aircraft that will go into operation in September 1984 in northern Ontario. They were carefully gone over by a select group of experts in the aviation field from the Ministry of Transportation and Communica-

tions, the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission and my ministry. The Nordair proposal was the highest received. Nordair's bid was much higher than the bid submitted by the new consortium of Austin/Air-Dale.

3:10 p.m.

This was an historic moment, as the parliamentary assistant asked the minister a question I would say yesterday was an historic day in northern Ontario because some of my cabinet colleagues took the first Dash-8 aircraft. The member for Sault Ste. Marie and I took the Dash-8 up to Sault Ste. Marie and made that announcement. It was an historic day for this country, this province and northern Ontario.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Northern Affairs indicate to us how this is going to affect his colleague's riding of North Bay and whether or not more people and staff will be moved from North Bay to Sault Ste. Marie as a result of this decision?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, in my remarks at Sault Ste. Marie yesterday, I pointed out that the operation and maintenance of the Dash-8 aircraft would be located in Sault Ste. Marie for both aircraft. I also indicated that the administration of the northern operation would remain in North Bay.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Northern Affairs and his colleagues made the decision to award the contract to the consortium of Air-Dale and Austin Airways, were they able to assure the people in northwestern Ontario, particularly the people in the minister's riding of Kenora and Dryden, that it would not unduly impair Nordair's ability to continue to do the excellent job it does on behalf of constituents from Kenora and Dryden? Will this deal impair the ability of that company to provide the excellent service it has provided in those communities to the minister's constituents?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I would have to point out to the members that the actual routing and the scheduling of the aircraft, which comes on stream in September, has not been fully worked out as yet. We have not looked at the northwestern Ontario routes and scheduling at this time.

It is certainly not our intention to remove the present service or to hamper in any way the quality and level of service we have in northern Ontario, albeit in Timmins, North Bay, Dryden or Thunder Bay. We will add to the service that is already there.

ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. Wrye: I have a new question for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development concerning the terrible plight of the disabled in this province. In his response to our plea that his government end the shocking discrepancy in financial assistance to the single elderly and the single disabled, a difference of \$300 a month by the end of this year, he said last month, "I ask that he give the government an opportunity to bring forth the budget proposals so that he will more clearly know our intentions for the future."

The budget has come and gone, and there is not a dime of extra money for the 55,600 disabled in Ontario. We now understand his government's intentions for the future are to keep the disabled in poverty. If that is not the case, why was this terrible injustice not addressed in the budget?

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, the matter of the level of pensions for different segments of the populace is always under constant review. It will continue to be addressed by those ministers responsible.

Mr. Wrye: I want to remind the Provincial Secretary for Social Development that the review ended on Tuesday with the provincial budget for this year. They are not going to get an extra dime.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wrye: In the minister's response last month, he included a line from Tennyson, "Freedom slowly broadens down." I checked the reference and it is from a poem called, "You Ask Me Why." I would like to ask the minister to elaborate on the surrounding lines. They are very short:

A land of settled government,
A land of just and old renown,
Where Freedom slowly broadens down
From precedent to precedent.

Why is the minister not going to follow the precedent established with the single elderly with a similar action for the single disabled? Is the settled government over there just a tired, worn, uncaring, unfeeling group that wants to neglect the disabled in this province?

Hon. Mr. Dean: To answer the last portion of the question first, I would say the answer is no. To answer the first part of it, I would briefly say yes, it will.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, is the Provincial Secretary for Social Development in favour of bringing the pension of the disabled up to the equivalent amount of the seniors' pension? Will he be pushing for this to happen this year?

Hon. Mr. Dean: I think I answered the question fairly well in the very first response, when I said it is constantly under discussion.

RED MEAT PLAN

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer, if he would go to his seat. Perhaps I can start putting it while he is on his way.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, please.

Mr. Swart: I am sure the Treasurer is aware of the repeated promises during the past year by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) that a tripartite red meat stabilization program was imminent, yet the subject was not even mentioned in his budget. Worse still, no funds are provided for payment even of stabilization premiums in a budget that runs until March 31, 1985.

Does the Treasurer not recognize that no premium payments until April of next year will mean little, if nothing, in stabilized payments to farmers before the end of 1985? Is this absence of funds in the budget for red meat stabilization on the advice of the Minister of Agriculture and Food?

The Treasurer said the budget was a team effort. Is there agreement between the Treasurer and the Minister of Agriculture and Food that, by some convoluted logic, a stabilization program could be delayed for another 18 months while hundreds or thousands of farmers in this province slowly sink out of sight in the quicksand of the government's farm policy?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I should tell the member that our Minister of Agriculture and Food, having been the leader in Canada in putting together the stabilization program, has the complete authority from us to mount our end of the program as soon as the other governments involved do what they have to do. We have done everything we have to do. The funding is available and ready to go as soon as the other governments come to the table as aggressively as this government and our Minister of Agriculture and Food have.

Mr. Swart: Is the Treasurer aware that the Minister of Agriculture and Food, according to the Kitchener-Waterloo Record of April 10, stated that the Ontario government had budgeted \$50 million in price support subsidies for the beef, hog and sheep industries and that would be Ontario's contribution to a national red meat stabilization program he hopes will begin this year?

Would the Treasurer tell this House, because the funds are fully committed in his budget to

other programs, what existing programs or promised programs are going to be cut out to fund this \$50 million?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I want to repeat this quite carefully. As soon as the federal government does what it has to do to get the stabilization program going, funding will be provided to our minister to implement the program, which he designed, put together and has led the way with and which will be in operation immediately upon the other governments all being lined up and the federal government doing what it has to do. The money is there.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes), York North (Mr. Hodgson), Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson) and York Mills (Miss Stephenson), I table the following petitions to the Lieutenant Governor:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of residents of Hamilton East and Wentworth, I wish to table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal

value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

3:20 p.m.

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Sheppard from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

HOUSE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that when the House adjourns on Friday, May 18, at 1 p.m., it stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 22, at 2 p.m.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that, notwithstanding the previous order of the House, the House will sit on Wednesday, June 13, and when it adjourns on that date, it stands adjourned until Monday, June 18, at 2 p.m.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved, seconded by Mr. Eaton, first reading of Bill 71, An Act to amend the Assessment Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, earlier today I made a statement on this bill, which contains amendments arising out of the Treasurer's budget of May 15, 1984.

First, this bill provides property tax exemptions for improvements, alterations and additions undertaken to allow disabled or senior citizens to continue living in their homes rather than in special care facilities.

Second, this bill will raise the general ceiling which allows property owners to make repairs and modest improvements to their homes without incurring increases to their assessments and subsequently their tax bills. This ceiling will be raised from the current \$2,500 market value level to \$5,000 market value level.

CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Baetz, first reading of Bill 72, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, this bill contains amendments arising out of the Treasurer's budget of May 15, 1984, as well as some administrative amendments.

The budgetary measure being implemented by this bill relates to the income tax exemption to a newly incorporated, Canadian-controlled private corporation on its taxable income of up to \$200,000 for each of the first three taxation years of the corporation. This measure will follow upon the expiry of the present tax holiday program for small business.

The administrative amendments include a number of changes that are required as a consequence of recent amendments to the Income Tax Act, Canada, to which the Ontario Corporations Tax Act is closely tied.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Baetz, first reading of Bill 73, An Act to amend the Small Business Development Corporations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, this bill implements the amendments arising out of the proposals in the Treasurer's budget of May 15, 1984, as well as some administrative amendments.

The budgetary measure provides that the incentive funds from which grants are paid may be allocated in such a way as to support investments in small businesses that are newly formed or based in northern and eastern Ontario.

The bill also reduces the maximum amount invested in any one small business by one or more small business development corporations from the present \$5 million to \$2.5 million.

The administrative amendments include certain changes that are required for the effective operation of the act.

ONTARIO LOAN ACT

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 74, An Act to authorize the Raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Motion agreed to.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ramsay moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Bernier, first reading of Bill 75, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a series of amendments to the construction industry provisions of the Labour Relations Act. The changes are proposed in response to concerns that have been expressed either by employers or by building trade unions in the construction industry.

To briefly summarize, the bill contains four basic features. First, it is intended to facilitate the immediate enforcement of arbitration decisions in the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Second, it sets out the authority of the board to grant relief in respect to activity that has precipitated an unlawful strike, such as selective picketing during a provincial work stoppage.

Third, the bill provides the board with the authority to make remedial directions regarding unlawful arrangements concluded outside the provincial bargaining process.

The final feature is intended to limit entitlement to participate in votes in the industrial, commercial and institutional sector to tradesmen and contractors having a direct interest in the bargaining.

I will be explaining the purpose and effect of the proposed changes in greater detail during the debate on second reading.

3:30 p.m.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Epp moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, first reading of Bill 76, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Municipal Act to provide that the seat of a member of council who ceases to reside in the municipality or to own or rent property there becomes vacant after a 30-day period. Under the present law, such a member may continue to hold office for the balance of the term, although the member would not be entitled to vote or to be a candidate in subsequent elections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I would like to inform you that it has been agreed we will split the time for the two leadoff speakers from the opposition and third party today. Perhaps the table could handle that matter.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I wonder if I could find out from the government House leader whether the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) intends to be present. Here he comes.

I have a particular reason for asking that question. Obviously the budget as a whole is going to be the basis of the Treasurer's run for the leadership. The credibility of the Treasurer is at stake in this his first budget. I want to deal with three or four matters concerning the credibility of the Treasurer as we know it to date. I might even go so far as to give him a little friendly advice.

Let us talk about the credibility of the Treasurer and the budget. The first thing that comes to my mind, and we just found this out, is that the Treasurer and his staff were informed by our federal cousins that they were going to receive part of \$750 million in extra transfer payments under established programs financing in this last fiscal year. The Treasurer and his people were told this last December.

Even the Treasurer, being the Treasurer, could figure he was going to receive something like an extra \$250 million. We know as a result of the figures in the budget, which the Treasurer certainly did not underline or draw to anybody's attention, that he received something like \$337 million more than he expected from the federal transfer payments. The Treasurer did not tell us about this in December.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, I did.

Mr. T. P. Reid: No, he did not.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was in Ontario Finances.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Not \$337 million. We checked. Why did the Treasurer not tell us when we were doing the prebudget statement that his deficit was going to be down by that much money?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The members opposite had it as soon as we had it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: No, we did not.

Second, I do not feel I have been put upon necessarily, but I am used to the shenanigans of the Treasurer and the cabinet in floating balloons and putting it out to the public and manipulating the media by suggesting there are going to be large tax increases. The Treasurer has tried to

indicate in the House this afternoon that this was the fault of the Leader of the Opposition.

What the Treasurer did was float trial balloons, scaring the populace of the province by suggesting it could expect nothing but large tax increases this year. Then he came in with his budget of Tuesday last and said: "Lo and behold, you are not going to get all the tax increases I was threatening you with. Am I not a nice guy? Should I not be the next Premier of Ontario?" It was typical of the Treasurer's and the cabinet's manipulation of the media and of the public of Ontario at large.

The other matter that affects the Treasurer's credibility, regardless of what the Conference Board of Canada says today, is that every other economist, even some of those who advise the government on a public basis, is saying the minister has taken the optimistic end of the scale. Very few people are predicting we are going to have real growth of 4.7 per cent in this coming year, a figure on which the Treasurer's whole budgetary philosophy and all his figures are based.

It is interesting that when our former leader talked about statistics from the Conference Board of Canada which showed that Ontario was 10th and last in economic growth, and all that sort of thing, the present Treasurer and all his colleagues pooh-poohed the conference board and said: "They are a bunch of crying Cassandaras. Who would believe all that?"

Those were specific statistics that were based on historical fact. What we are dealing with is forecasts. We know and accept that anybody's forecast is probably as good as the next person's, but all the advice we have received, and I am sure the Treasurer has received, is that you take the worst scenario, the best scenario and the ones in between, and you work out some kind of reasonable average.

There is nobody who is predicting more real growth in the province's economy than the conference board. Almost everybody else is predicting less. The Treasurer's budget is based on extremely faulty assumptions and a great deal of quicksand.

The other part of the Treasurer's credibility that is slipping day by day is something I am personally annoyed about. On two occasions in the last little while I have been asked by the media, in one case the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., to be on a television program to debate with the Treasurer of Ontario, the heir apparent to the premiership, matters relating to public opinion polls and advertising. The Treasurer

refused and said he would not appear on camera live with me. I do not think the Treasurer fears me that much. As recently as yesterday, my colleague from the third party and myself were on Metro Morning as finance critics for the two opposition parties. We went down to the studio but, lo and behold, there was no Treasurer.

The Treasurer has stipulated he will not go on live with the two opposition critics, but he will go on if he is allowed a 10-minute rebuttal or statement after we have made our points. Of course, our microphones are turned off. We cannot reply to the rhetoric of the Treasurer and we cannot argue about the red herrings he tries to make out of our arguments. He is presumably sitting either in his chauffeur-driven limousine, with the telephone in the back seat, or in the study of his home in Rosedale or wherever he happens to live.

I happened to be in a car behind the Treasurer going through his riding one day. He must be embarrassed to be seen in the back of a limousine, because he slumps down so his constituents cannot see he is being chauffeured. I checked the seat and even the Treasurer, if he sat up straight, could be seen by one and all.

It is interesting that the Treasurer, who thinks about, wishes to be and almost salivates at the thought of being the first minister of this province, is afraid to take on members of the opposition in an open and public debate.

Mr. Nixon: He is a chicken.

Mr. T. P. Reid: My colleague may be closer to the truth than others.

This budget, the Treasurer's first and I suspect the last before the next election, is probably going to go down in history as long as the game of Trivial Pursuit exists, because I think this budget is going to make it in that party game as, "What was the most trivial budget ever brought down in Ontario in the last 13 years of the Davis regime?"

Mr. Kerr: It must have been a good one then.
3:40 p.m.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I want to tell my friend the member for Burlington South (Mr. Kerr) that I do not know whether it is a good one—I do not think it is—but historically it is certainly in the mode since the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) became Premier. The last time we had a budgetary surplus in this province was 1969-70, when there was a surplus of roughly \$150 million.

In 1970-71, when the current Premier took over the reins, we had a deficit of \$566 million. The next year it was \$1,018,000,000, the next

year \$744 million, then \$708 million and \$977 million. In 1975-76 it was \$1,799,000,000, and then we get up, of course, to the \$2,039,000,000 that we have today. I will go over those figures.

The Treasurer has followed the tradition of Davis Treasurers of having large deficits in Ontario, and I will get to some of the ways in which we could well have reduced them.

However, I want to say something nice about the budget. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then we on the Liberal Party side should be blushing. Tuesday's budget draws its two main thrusts directly from Liberal policy: increased emphasis on youth programs, with particular attention to the needs of the hard-core youth unemployed, and funding of new initiatives through trimming government fat.

I would draw to members' attention the two very well-thought-out programs the Liberal Party announced back in the fall of this year. We did not wait until May 15 to announce our programs; we had them then; we recognized the problem. This government is only now reacting, and the Treasurer today could not tell us how many jobs were going to be created and available for young people in this province this summer.

Unfortunately, while the budget pays welcome lipservice to these principles, it does little else. The actions simply do not match the rhetoric. Like the Treasurer who drafted it, the budget is long on hype but short on substance.

People have called this the budget of deception. I must confess, though, that the document is masterful in at least one way. The Treasurer has managed to turn what used to be a factual document into an inflated, unenlightening and self-congratulatory piece of nonsense. The resemblance to one of the Premier's own speeches is uncanny.

In previous budgets we found tables that compared year-to-year expenditures by category, allowing the opposition to determine, for instance, how much payments to doctors or expenditures in the whole training field were necessary; these have been removed. In previous budgets honest figures were provided as to what would be spent on programs in the current fiscal year; now we have nebulous promises as to what will be spent overall, when program parameters are developed, if a program is carried out over three years or five years or more.

I thought the Treasurer's word processor had broken down when I first read the budget, because everything is three to five years. When you break those figures down, the programs that are available to youth, the unemployed, women,

the disabled and for housing assistance break down to very few dollars indeed.

Unfortunately, the Advertising Standards Council has no jurisdiction here. Unfortunately, truth in advertising is no longer a budget requirement. The Grossman technique is most clearly indicated by what he has done with the deficit. The Treasurer went out of his way to lead the public to believe that the 1983-84 deficit was \$2.7 billion and in danger of growing larger, while knowing full well that it dropped substantially. Then he announced the drop in his budget and tried to claim credit for the improvement. Again, he did not mention the fact that it was the federal government that bailed him out with a hefty increase in federal transfer payments.

Likewise the deception on taxes. The Treasurer would have us believe his budget contained no new taxes. Apparently \$70 million for the Ontario health insurance plan is not a tax, apparently the \$44 million that will be passed through to consumers by Hydro does not exist and apparently the \$350 million that the so-called social services maintenance tax will net him this year is not a consideration.

The last illustrates a new trend in budget-making in Ontario. The government has apparently decided that yearly tax increases alienate the electorate, so now we have bi-yearly announcements with increases spread over two years. By some strange logic, the Tory collective mind, if that is not a contradiction in terms, has decided this allows the government to say the personal income tax increasing from 46 per cent to 48 per cent in 1982 was not really an increase, nor was the social services surtax going from 2.5 per cent to five per cent this year.

The Treasurer is only following his leader's example in obfuscating and misrepresenting the facts. After all, it was the Premier himself who had the gall to tell his Empire Club audience two months ago that he was proud Ontario had weathered the recession "without any significant tax increases."

Since the dictionary defines "significant" as meaning "of important consequence," we can only assume the Premier considers several billion dollars in tax increases, including the broadening of the retail sales tax and the hospitality tax, the personal income tax increase, the social services surtax, three consecutive increases in Ontario health insurance plan premiums, the gasoline ad valorem tax, the sin tax increases and others to be of no consequence to the taxpayers. I do not think the taxpayers feel the same way.

In claiming the need to increase OHIP premiums, one of the most regressive of taxes and one we have long claimed should be eliminated, the Treasurer ignored that this year he will already earn some \$350 million from the so-called social services maintenance tax above and beyond what the regular tax structure would net.

The ostensible purpose of the tax was to ensure that one-time costs associated with offsetting the effects of the recession on individuals would not become built into the system by increasing the deficit. As the 1983 budget address stated, the tax was "to ensure that decent public programs and job creation initiatives are paid for without undue increases in our deficit."

This and subsequent statements made it clear that short-term job creation programs and increased transfer payments for social assistance were the major items the tax was intended to cover.

The government has made no attempt to demonstrate that the actual cost increases associated with these items even approaches the size of the revenues the surtax brings in. The reason is readily apparent to anyone who examines the government's detailed expenditures, for the revenue increases far exceed the cost increases.

In 1983-84, transfers to municipalities for general welfare assistance rose by \$25 million over the 1982-83 levels. Expenditures for short-term job creation and manpower training rose by \$31 million and \$13 million respectively. Thus in 1983-84, the total increase on those items for which the social services maintenance tax was intended was \$69 million, fully \$101 million less than the revenues generated by the tax.

In the current fiscal year, the gap between revenues and increased expenditures will widen even further. The major short-term job creation expenditures last year were associated with the Canada-Ontario employment development program. Virtually all the \$110 million provincial contribution under this program has been paid out in the past two years.

Expenditures for short-term job creation will fall this year by \$59 million while general welfare assistance will increase by \$29 million over last year, or \$94 million over 1982-83.

In other words, the surtax will bring in \$350 million to cover at most \$40 million in additional social services costs. Thus there is already a hefty tax increase in effect, the bulk of the take from which will go directly into consolidated revenue. In such a situation there was no justification for

further increasing OHIP premiums or other taxes at this time.

This does not mean there were no opportunities for taxation reform. Recently, in questions to the Treasurer, I pointed out that imposing a minimum tax of 20 per cent in Ontario, as they do in the United States, can earn something over \$50 million from high-income earners who currently escape taxation. This sort of measure is practical and desirable in tandem with the federal government, yet would not increase the total tax burden.

3:50 p.m.

If you will recall, Mr. Speaker, I raised the question about some 8,000 people who pay no tax because of the clauses—I guess I would call them loopholes—and incentives in the federal tax system. I have checked and I understand Ontario cannot go this route alone unless we get into our own personal income tax, which I do not think anybody wants to do. Surely the Treasurer should be more aggressive in pushing his federal counterpart on this matter.

It is interesting to me that the day after I asked this question, the leader of the third party was obviously busy on the phone to his federal counterpart in Ottawa saying: "Reid's got a good issue, Mr. Broadbent, and you sure need something. You had better get on this one." That is another story.

I want to talk about trimming the fat over there. I could go on in this vein for some time, but I think, given the limitations, I should turn my attention to some specific issues concerning the budget. I would like to start with another of the Treasurer's prevarications, his attempt to develop a method of responsible cutbacks in government spending.

I want to point out, before I get into some of these specifics, that we have the most swollen, bloated cabinet for any population in Canada. We have 29 cabinet ministers, three of whom are in the policy secretariats. Aside from getting in their limos in the morning, I do not know to this day what the policy secretaries do. We have 14 parliamentary assistants; and this is a government that is being lean and mean.

All we see is more of the Tories getting more out of the public purse. If the Treasurer and the Premier were really serious, they could cut their cabinet back by four or five ministers, do away with most of the parliamentary assistants and really show an example that they are running a lean government.

But, oh no, it is restraint for everybody else and the Tories at the pork barrel. I truly wish the Treasurer was cutting government waste.

Certainly, it is a task which needs to be done, but when one examines the figure that is clearly not being done. Of the \$311-million reduction in the deficit this year, only \$50 million will come from the so-called flat-lining of government expenditures.

By the way, I like all the Treasurer's new euphemism. It shows a lot of creativity in the literary field but none, unfortunately, in the financial field.

The rest will come from \$120 million in tax increases from the Ontario health insurance plan, the water rental charges and bank tax, \$45 million from the elimination of the corporate tax holiday for small business, \$25 million from selling off a tiny share of the government's \$5-billion land and building stock, and the balance from significant increases in tax revenue over the inflation rate. In fact, Ontarians will pay fully \$1 billion more in income tax alone this year.

That lonely \$50 million in reduced expenditures is a pittance compared with a possible saving. The government itself has recognized there is ample room within each budgetary category to trim back expenditures.

In November 1982, a memo was circulated to all ministries outlining a process of program review which they were to undertake prior to the 1983-84 budget and the 1984-85 and 1985-86 allocation process. This process entailed each ministry targeting possible cutbacks totalling 10 per cent of its expenditures and developing plans for their implementation.

I have the statement here and members will find that on page 5, the program implicitly and explicitly recognizes the reality of waste in government. The memo states clearly, "Each ministry has the potential for some degree of program savings," and adds that "the total of options thus identified will be around \$2 billion." That is somewhat in the neighbourhood of what the government's deficit will be.

The timetable in the memo suggests choices would be finalized by September 30, 1983, with implementation "in the latter part of 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86 and possibly beyond."

Would the Treasurer table with the members of the Legislature all those program reviews? Did the government come up with the savings of \$2 billion across all the ministries? The answer is obvious with respect to action. Very little paring has yet occurred.

While the government has claimed that \$300 million was constrained last year, substantial amounts of this related not to expenditure

reductions but to fortuitous increases in loan repayments from various sources. With only \$50 million in further cuts this year, this source has been barely tapped.

Two billion dollars is a lot of money. Indeed it is, but not in the context of this government's endless capacity for waste. At \$700 per chair, at \$206,000 to make ambitious ministers sound coherent, at \$42,000 for bookmarks, at literally millions of dollars to keep friends busy with untendered contracts, the money adds up quickly. Huge savings are available, even if the government continues blindly to refuse to clip the wings of the provincial albatross, Suncor, or to dispose of its bankrupt and bankrupting land banks.

Moreover, we still do not know the extent of total government expenditures in two important areas: advertising and the hiring of outside consultants. Whether we use the figure of \$27 million from Media Measurement Services Inc. or the Provincial Auditor's suggestion of \$70 million, the Tory government is pouring vast amounts of money into the coffers of Foster and friends.

While much of this advertising is necessary, and in some cases essential, an equally large amount is wasted on unjustifiable self-promotion. The former Minister of the Environment, Mr. Parrott, said: "We discovered through our polling that people were concerned about the environment. So we went out and advertised that we were doing something about the environment. We did not have any programs, but we advertised that we were doing something." As we all know, the budget of the Ministry of the Environment has been cut drastically this year.

Only last week, the first information became available on the extent to which the government's vaunted reduction in public service employment has been offset by increased hiring of private consultants. The figures provided in estimates, as a result of persistent Liberal Party inquiries, show that between 1977-78 and 1982-83, expenditures for management consultants in the Ministry of Government Services alone rose by 507 per cent, from \$176,000 to \$1,069,000. In the last year of that period, the increase over the previous year was about 43 per cent, at a time when all government workers were being restricted to five per cent pay increases.

It is ironic that these monumental increases should have been occurring in the very ministry where a minister later tried to cut down on unjustified expenditures and was fired for his

efforts. It is frightening to think what these expenditures may be in larger ministries, considering Government Services ranks only eighth among them.

It is obvious the government would have had far more room to manoeuvre in implementing new programs had it made a real effort to contain costs. We believe this should have been done. The budget did not provide the sort of stimulation needed for many areas in the province.

I am not talking about an endless proliferation of open-ended programs. Any party can develop a wish list of programs totalling billions of dollars and say they should be implemented regardless of financial feasibility. We all know one party which does just that, but this cannot be taken for thoughtful comment. Rather, we propose about \$200 million in additional stimulation should have been provided. This could have been done without increasing the deficit, by further cutting the waste the government's own program review admits is all too prevalent.

I would now like to look at some specific issues and sectors, and compare the measures proposed in the budget with our Liberal Party alternatives.

Directly and indirectly, the tourism industry accounts for more than 350,000 jobs in Ontario. A far larger percentage of these jobs than for other industries is at the entry level. As a result, tourism provides a disproportionate number of opportunities for young people. On a regional basis, tourism is of major importance in exactly those areas most in need of economic stimulation, particularly northern Ontario.

These are all ample grounds for providing additional stimulation to the tourism sector, but there remains a further consideration. The industry is in trouble. Last year Ontario attracted 22.5 million US visitors, compared to 28.3 million in 1981, a 20 per cent drop. The number of visitors to Ontario from other countries fell even more precipitously by 25 per cent. These factors led to a doubling of Ontario's travel account deficit from \$341 million in 1981 to \$683 million last year.

4 p.m.

One of the most important factors contributing to the problems of the tourist industry is the continued escalation in government-controlled costs. In particular, the ad valorem tax on gasoline and the compounding federal-provincial taxes on alcohol have led to prices far above those in American border states. The only stimulus the government provided in this regard is the temporary extension of the provincial sales

tax refund program for visitors to Ontario for commercial accommodation.

Tourism Ontario had pointed out that a permanent extension would cost only \$750,000 in lost revenue and generate 100,000 additional room-night rentals per year. The government would not even go this far, opting to spend less than \$560,000 for the temporary extension. The industry could receive no better indication of where it stands in the government's list of priorities.

While numerous types of incentives could have been provided to the industry, one of the simplest and most sensible would have been to eliminate the provincial gallonage fees for licensed establishments. The fees are 12 per cent for liquor and wine and 12 cents per hectolitre for beer. No other province charges these fees. Even the Liquor Control Board of Ontario recognizes the futility of providing a five per cent discount on purchases by licensed establishments and then slapping on a 12 per cent gallonage charge.

Removing this tax would cost about \$29 million, but by allowing establishments to lower their prices more in line with those south of the border, the action might well lead to increased tourism and increased tax revenues. Lower prices at licensed establishments could lead to a shift in the percentage of all beverage sales occurring at such establishments. Since licensed sales provide far greater provincial sales tax revenues than home consumption and generate employment, total government revenues might well increase from such a move.

I will not talk about the obscene taxes the Treasurer levies on alcohol, beer and wine in this province. We can have that debate at another time. There is no doubt that they are having an adverse effect on the hospitality industry in Ontario.

There can be little doubt that small business is the engine of employment growth in our present economy. Every study that has looked at this issue has concluded that small business has accounted for nearly 100 per cent of the job creation that has occurred in the recent past and that the outlook for the future is the same. Providing a conducive environment for small business growth should be an essential budgetary strategy.

The major assistance for small business in the past two budgets has been the corporate tax holiday. Originally instituted for two taxation years, it was extended for a third last year. This means some businesses will use up their eligi-

bility this tax year while others have one year remaining.

The current budget stated that the tax holiday will end on schedule. The budget did provide for a tax holiday for newly incorporated firms during the first three years of operation. This is a response to a direct request from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. Moreover, there is by no means unanimous agreement in the small business community that this was the best tack to take. To extend the holiday for a further year would cost at least \$250 million and might well have had mixed results.

However, in each year the exemption has applied, it has been of no benefit to the more than half of all the small firms which did not show a profit and therefore did not pay taxes. Many of these firms did not survive the recession. For those that did, a strong argument can be made that having come through a rocky, profitless period, they deserve the same break offered those small businesses which did make money in the last few years.

Given this rationale, we would propose an extension of the small business tax holiday for one additional year, applicable only to those businesses operating for at least two years that have not been able to utilize the exemption. Such a modified continuation of the program would cost only a fraction of the current initiative. While it is impossible to estimate accurately, our best guess is that the cost might be about \$40 million this year. A slightly larger amount would be required in the next fiscal year.

This is an acceptable price to pay to reward and stimulate those small firms that have struggled to grow and maintain employment during the economic downturn.

It is not clear whether the government will parallel the federal government's actions in abolishing the \$1-million upper limit on retained earnings for firms eligible for the small business tax rate. Certainly, we would urge it to do so.

In a similar vein, the \$500,000 export sale requirement for participation in the export success fund should have been abolished so that even newly exporting businesses could utilize the fund. It was unfortunate that this was not done, for the government has long mentioned that encouraging small firms to begin exporting should be an important goal.

It is also worth noting that the budget made no mention of increased funds for the export success fund as promised in the throne speech. Is this to become another of the empty promises from the

throne, like freedom of information and sunset legislation?

While the Treasurer claimed to be maintaining his commitment to the small business development corporations, in fact he cut their funding from \$30 million last year to \$25 million this year. On that topic I might ask whether the Treasurer intends to table the results of the small business development bond review, which I understand was completed just recently this spring.

Northern Ontario is obviously a very important part of this province with unique concerns. After years of benign neglect by this government, it deserves special consideration in this budget. It did not get it. The budget did little more than assign a new \$3.3-million-per-year program for economic development in the north, a pittance considering the hardships the region has undergone in recent years. As somebody put it to me, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) spills more than that as he is travelling between Hudson and Minaki Lodge.

Moreover, this new plan does little more than replace the assistance previously provided under the joint federal-provincial northern Ontario rural development agreement, which expired on March 31, an agreement I understand the feds were prepared to extend but this government was loath to, or refused to, extend because the feds were insisting they get a little credit for the money they pumped into northern Ontario through this agreement.

This government, which has been using federal grants, transfer payments and programs and pretending it was all Ontario money, has refused to share any of the credit with the federal government across northern Ontario. It is upset that people in the north have now realized it is the Liberal Party that is helping them out and that they are turning to the Liberal Party; so it is all going to be back in the hands of the Minister of Northern Affairs, but NORDA, unfortunately, will not proceed. I think that is a shame and it is callous on the part of the government to take that approach to northern Ontario.

In the past year the government has finally recognized the added costs associated with life in many northern communities. The task force report on living costs in the remote northern Ontario communities substantiated the claims that northerners have been making for years.

But the problems are not only in the remote communities. Even those living in larger northern centres pay dearly for many products relative to their friends in southern Ontario. For

instance, as of March 1, 1984, two per cent milk costs \$2.99 or less for four litres in most of southern Ontario but \$4.10 in Sioux Lookout, \$4.49 in Kirkland Lake, \$4.32 in Rainy River and \$4.67 in Wawa, a difference in some cases of up to \$2 for four litres.

This very government in 1971 found within its heart and within that reservoir of compassion the Treasurer is so overflowing with that it could equalize the cost of a case of beer across Ontario, but it cannot find some way to equalize the cost of a litre of milk as between northern and southern Ontario.

At the same time, there is a dire need for direct stimulation to promote growth and job creation in the north. With the mining and forestry industries among the worst affected by the world recession and with tourism reeling as a result of government tax and price increases, recovery has been slow to nonexistent in many northern communities.

Therefore, both to offset the high living costs of the north and to pump more money into the depressed economy, we believe a northern Ontario tax credit is justified. A credit of \$100 per taxpayer would cost about \$49 million. While the amount is not excessive, it might well be better to provide a larger credit to those with lower incomes than to provide a universal grant. Some northerners—for instance, doctors in remote areas or highly paid executives sent north by their companies—are already being paid bonuses for working in these areas; it would be redundant to pay these people again for additional costs for which they are already being well reimbursed.

4:10 p.m.

Thus, weighing the tax credit against taxable income, as is now done with the sales tax credit, would allow the same amount of money to be spread around the north to those who need it most. A larger maximum, in the order of \$180, would then be available to low- and middle-income earners, with some, of course, receiving only part of the credit while high-income earners would receive little or no credit.

I do not have to tell most of my colleagues about the high cost of such things as fuel oil and gasoline, or that while we pay the same Ontario health insurance plan premiums, we still have to pay our travel costs to go to centres to get treatment and so on.

There is also a need for the province to devote attention to the state of its development programs in the north. We have shown in the past that northern Ontario, along with eastern Ontario, has

been shortchanged in assistance received from the Ontario development corporations. There was no mention in the budget that any steps would be taken to correct this problem.

Lest the Treasurer think I never give him any credit for anything he does, let me commend the decision to allocate a specified portion of small business development corporation funds to the north and east. Moreover, he should be applying a similar approach to ODC assistance, which is of much greater magnitude.

Over the past few years, society has come to the realization that women will never enjoy full status until governments recognize and deal with the special problems confronting them. Unfortunately, while the rhetoric used by the Ontario government has changed with the times, there have been few substantial actions to accompany these words.

The clearest indication of the attitude of the Davis administration towards the disadvantaged majority is the tax imposed in the 1982 budget on women. By cynically enacting a seven per cent sales tax on feminine hygiene products, and then defending his actions on the grounds that the tax was no more inequitable than taxing shaving creams, the then Treasurer demonstrated the reality of the Tory attitude towards women.

The 1984 budget was the first opportunity for the new Treasurer to correct his predecessor's error. The elimination of the retail sales tax on feminine hygiene products would have been the most significant symbolic act the Treasurer could have taken in his budget. It would not have cost an exorbitant amount. We estimate the revenue loss to be less than \$6 million. Surely this is not an unreasonable price to set on an important symbol of equality between the sexes, but apparently it was too much for the Treasurer.

A second major area of concern to women with which the province must deal relates to day care. A great many couples cannot afford the \$4,000 per year that unsubsidized day care generally costs. In the vast majority of cases it is the mother who is forced to remain out of the work force to provide in-home care. As a result, the participation rate of women in the labour force is no longer growing significantly and the large gap in average wages between men and women shows little sign of narrowing.

The situation is even more serious for single mothers. When subsidized day care is not available and the opportunity to work is therefore strictly limited, social assistance is all too often the only alternative. Accessible day care is vital

to free these women to join fully in Ontario's economic life.

We welcome the 1,500 additional spaces the government has pledged to provide, but across the province 3,000 spaces are needed to alleviate the day care crisis. The total cost would be about \$10 million, approximately the same amount as the tax on women has earned since 1982. What better way could there be to return the funds that were unjustly taken from women than to recycle them into such programs?

In the important agricultural sector, the budget initiatives fall far short of what was needed and what was promised. The 16 per cent increase in financial assistance promised for the agricultural industry is purely illusory. The agricultural budgetary expenditures will remain at one per cent of the total budgetary expenditures. The budget for the ministry will do little more than approach the levels of expenditures of two years ago.

While the government intends to spend \$335 million on the whole agricultural industry compared to \$330 million in 1982-83, it will collect \$583 million from the tobacco tax alone. That is the commitment of this government to agriculture.

Contrary to the statements of the Treasurer, the new Ontario budget offers no assurance to Ontario farmers that the recession is over for them. There is little evidence that the immediate critical requirements of this vital sector of the economy are being given any serious consideration by the government. The additional funds allotted for 1984 will go for programs previously announced and committed before the release of the budget, such as the farm tax reduction program, the beginning farmers program and the red meat initiative. No new programs have been announced to assist the farmers for the year 1983, in which they were very hard hit.

The one area that requires immediate financial assistance, namely, the red meat industry, continues to be neglected. In fact, there is no financial commitment to a tripartite stabilization plan the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) has claimed would be introduced this summer and which he has held up as a solution to farmers' financial problems for the last two years. I understand from my colleague that Saskatchewan has recently announced a program to assist its farmers.

This budget will do nothing to help farmers begin to pay back the huge debts they have accumulated over the last few years. Many proposals have been made by farm organizations

to address these problems which have been totally ignored by the Treasurer. The prebudget consultative process with these groups was little more than a charade. The comments of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture with respect to the so-called substantive assistance has been: "The provincial budget blatantly ignores the immediate, critical needs of the farm sector.... This budget has no news as far as agriculture is concerned."

Our party has provided numerous proposals for the ways in which additional funds should be channelled into agriculture. There is a need for an immediate increase in funds for tile drainage loans to meet all the needs of Ontario farmers. At the same time, the maximum loan assistance should be increased to cover 75 per cent of the drainage work as provided for by the legislation. Priority should be given to upgrading farm land in northern and eastern Ontario.

One of the major requirements, of course, is for an emergency financial assistance program for our red meat industry which would allow our producers to stay in production until a tripartite stabilization program is introduced. The Ontario farm adjustment assistance program is also in need of amendment. Since only a small portion of the funds originally allocated to the program has been spent, interest rates under OFAAP should be subsidized down to eight per cent from the current 12 per cent.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) was the biggest loser in this year's budget. For the second consecutive year, the government has reduced his ministry's budget. The estimate for the Ministry of the Environment for 1984-85 is \$312 million, down \$19 million or 5.7 per cent. It was cut by \$10 million in 1983-84 from \$341 million in 1982-83.

The message is clear. The minister and the Treasurer have agreed that environmental protection has a low priority in terms of government spending. With beaches polluted, drinking water threatened, dumps leaking and acid rain killing our lakes and forests, the response of this government is to cut the Environment budget.

These problems must be addressed, and an emasculated ministry cannot do it. I am not saying we need to simply throw money at the problems, but moderate expenditure could yield desirable results.

For instance, the government should introduce an incentive program to reduce toxic industrial wastes. The Ontario Waste Management Corp. has already outlined a program to help industry reuse, recycle and generally reduce wastes.

Understanding that the establishment of a provincial waste treatment facility is still several years away, the reduction process should begin now. It will save Ontario twice the funds in the future from the damage that will accrue.

The cost of the incentive program should be about \$5 million to \$10 million a year over five years initially. This money should generate twice that amount from industry for pollution control programs. Eventually the program could pay for itself with the money industries would save from recycling, selling and reducing the wastes they generate.

Another example would be the expansion of the Niagara Falls activated carbon filtration water treatment experiment. Committing another \$5 million to institute a meaningful filtration program for neutralizing and removing chemicals in drinking water would obviously be of benefit to all Ontarians.

Once again we have something about youth. When my colleagues and I announced our youth employment proposals last October, I hoped and stated that the government would steal them. I am honestly glad it has. We believe in what we proposed, and we know our solutions can help many needy young Ontarians.

4:20 p.m.

The budget measures for youth mark a complete turnabout for the Treasurer. Last fall he derided our program; now he has accepted it whole hog. Last fall he refused our request for more money for the Ontario career action program; now he has upgraded OCAP. Last fall he proclaimed the young Ontario career program as the solution to all our needs; now the program has been cancelled after it failed, just as we said it would.

What is disturbing, however, is that we have a general focus on hard-core disadvantaged youth, as we suggested, and a plethora of program names but very little else. As suggested earlier today, the whole budget has created one job, that of youth commissioner; and, as I understand it, he already had a job to start with.

The funding for most of the programs has not been established, nor in many cases have the eligibility criteria been established. We do not know, for instance, on what basis participants for the part-time employment program for students will be selected. This program could conceivably affect tens of thousands of young people, yet we have no idea how restricted or open it will be.

There is also no information available on timing. We got some information in the Treasurer's comments during the question period this

afternoon, but it is quite obvious that by the time most of these programs, recycled as most of them are, are up and running, we will be into the fall of this year or into the winter, when it is going to be extremely difficult to provide any jobs.

On the funding issue, some \$450 million is promised over three years. It is slightly more this year than in the next two; but \$160 million to \$180 million, the figures the Treasurer often mentions, will be less than \$42 million over scheduled expenses last year, not the \$60 million the Treasurer claims. That latter figure is derived only if compared with the actual expenditures, which include \$20 million in underspending resulting from government screwups. This money should be added to this year's allocation but used to try to inflate the apparent size of the increase.

The Treasurer talked about compassion. One of the things he and his colleagues have heard me talk about is the whole matter of providing more assistance to the handicapped for such things as wheelchairs and a system of prosthetic devices, to allow them to have the tools and the essentials to go out and participate in the life of Ontario, whether it be just the social life or the economic life. As it is, for those over 18 and 19 years of age, if they need these devices, they have to go and literally beg from the municipalities to get them, whether it be a wheelchair, an artificial arm or an artificial leg.

It always confused me that we would pay a doctor under the Ontario health insurance plan to cut somebody's leg off, but we would not pay under OHIP to have that artificial limb replaced so the person could get back into the life of Ontario. Where is that in this budget? Where is that from the former Minister of Health who found it in his heart and in his compassion to give hundreds of millions of dollars to the doctors by way of increase a few years ago but cannot find it within that bellyful of compassion which we heard about on Tuesday to help these people?

I also want to talk about housing. I want to state, first of all, that is going to badly affect the Treasurer's credibility. He is talking about housing starts being up by 4,000 this year. Everybody in the industry thinks he has lost his marbles; housing starts are going to be down. The whole budget was obviously based on an interest rate of about 10 per cent, but it has gone up by two percentage points since the Treasurer drafted this budget. Housing starts are going to be down.

There was an area where the Treasurer could have done something. Instead he says, "We are going to have 3,200 new units across the

province," when in Toronto alone there is a waiting list of more than 6,000. In my own riding, there are something like 45 people in one small town waiting to get into socially assisted housing. These are people who are on small pensions or widows who cannot work. What about the young people who have no housing, the young single people, the same ones who are unemployed and cannot get a job? Where are they to live?

We could have solved a number of our economic and social problems by putting in \$100 million or \$150 million, as we suggested a year or two ago, for socially assisted housing in Ontario. That would have created a few thousand jobs and satisfied the basic need for shelter of the people of the province. There is no stimulation and no suggestion that this was a priority for this government.

There is no need more fundamental than the need for decent, affordable housing. It is a responsibility of government to ensure that this kind of accommodation is available. The budget has failed to address the critical needs of the approximately 18,000 families and 6,000 senior citizens on Ontario Housing Corp. waiting lists. The Ontario government abandoned this responsibility when it strangled new OHC construction in 1976. It is time for the province to set the construction of new apartments as a priority.

Since many OHC projects have serious social problems, we feel the most benefit would be derived if Ontario would assist the federal government in funding more municipal nonprofit housing. An expenditure of \$18 million would provide an extra 360 units, enabling Toronto and Ottawa to make up for some of this year's shortfall resulting from political wrangling between the province and the federal government.

In our view, only some of the units should house the most needy, while shallow subsidies should ensure some spaces for the working poor and a portion of units should remain at market rent to ensure a broad mix of tenants and thus a more stable and amicable environment.

Instead, the budget merely regurgitates an announcement made last August by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett). Although the minister indicated his willingness at that time to raise his cap on the percentage of social housing units that could be rent-geared-to-income from 25 per cent to 35 per cent, with an additional five per cent for disabled people, he also placed some rather onerous obstacles in the way of municipalities and co-ops interested in pursuing this matter.

The minister and the Treasurer have not yet provided the supposedly stellar details of this program, but a few troublesome aspects have already emerged. First, let us recall that the minister's past policy has been that no more than 25 per cent of units in social housing projects could be rent-gear-to-income. This policy was amended in August 1983, when the minister announced he would allow this cap to be increased to 35 per cent, plus an additional five per cent in some cases for disabled people. This increase was not implemented, because he has attached strings that are of concern to municipalities and he has refused to meet or to negotiate with municipal officials.

The bulk of the 3,200 units announced in the budget are apparently related to this announcement of last August. Some of these units will also be spent on rent supplement in the private sector. The 3,200 units will be provided over five years; so an average of only 640 units per year will be provided. That is shameful.

The minister's staff is unwilling or unable to tell us the base from which the 640 units is to be increased. We have also been denied information on how many of the units will go to the private sector, which has other major and troublesome implications. The only thing that is certain is that no significant numbers have been added and that this government's commitment to social housing is as unsatisfactory now as it has been for the past eight years.

Property taxation exemptions announced in the budget for seniors and the elderly, we believe, are worthy programs to pursue. It is interesting that they will not cost the Treasurer anything at all.

4:30 p.m.

I want to suggest some other initiatives a Liberal Party would have taken in this budget. I have already talked about, and it has been our policy for some time to provide, prosthetic and assistive devices, wheelchairs, etc., for the handicapped. We cannot understand why this government has not moved in that direction. We also talked about the northern Ontario tax credit, which would give the people in northern Ontario who have these higher costs some kind of parity in their living costs with the rest of Ontario.

I would like to spend more time talking about productivity and the fact that this budget says very little about productivity either in the private sector or within government. Every time I try to engage the Treasurer of the day in a conversation about productivity, I get, "Well, we are building

technology centres," as if this were the only aspect of productivity.

One of the fundamental economic problems we face in Canada and in Ontario has got to be the fact that our productivity has not grown along with that of other countries; in fact, I think among 14 western democracies in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development we were 12th in productivity. This is an item that is hardly mentioned at all in the Treasurer's budget.

We would like to see struck, in the broader framework of legislative reform around this Legislature, a standing committee on health and health care costs that would be in place for some years so the people on this committee could become knowledgeable and expert in health care costs. We see a problem with the premiums, with the whole premium section that we have seen pointed out; we know we are moving into an ageing population.

We see all these problems before us, but we do not see any constructive response from the government opposite. We feel a continuing legislative committee that would look at these matters would provide for all of us in this Legislature a better understanding of the health care costs, what they are, what they will be and how they will be financed in the future.

We have also talked about putting pressure on the House of Commons to ensure that those people who are escaping tax, perhaps legitimately now, those people who have salaries or incomes of more than \$50,000 and who are not paying tax—something like 8,000 in Ontario—would have to pay at least a 20 per cent flat income tax in this province.

We want to talk at some length—and we will, I presume, during the Treasurer's estimates—about resource taxes on the mining and forest industries. It was interesting that there was no mention in the Treasurer's budget of the 60 per cent increase in administered prices that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) has told the forest industries they are going to get this year even though they are just now coming out of a recession.

We have talked about assistance for agriculture and particularly for the farmers who for the past year have been in debt up to their eyebrows and who are going out of business. There were more farm bankruptcies last year than there had been the year before at the height of the recession, yet there is no response from this government.

We believe there should be a federal-provincial economic meeting of the finance ministers

from across Canada at least on a yearly basis because it becomes obvious—and I tend to agree on occasion with my friends opposite—that a lot of these measures have to be done in harmony with the federal government. Obviously, if we are going to get anywhere with matters such as those who are escaping tax, economic direction and thrust, these policies must be harmonized.

One of the other items on this kind of economic agenda, I suggest to the Treasurer, following the advice of our former colleague, Mr. McKeough, is that the duplication between federal and provincial governments should be done away with. That in itself would save a great deal of taxpayers' money and duplication of programs.

A small item there was the Ministry of Energy advertising exactly the same program at the provincial level that the feds already had; yet I suppose that, to give the appearance it was doing something, it jumped in with the same program and even lifted the advertising from the federal assistance program. Here we had a complete and utter duplication of effort.

I talked about housing, both socially and economically. There should have been a thrust, particularly on socially assisted housing for the young and single, for the disabled and for the poor. It would have created jobs in the private sector in the construction industry, and it would have provided that most basic need of reasonable shelter for the people of Ontario.

That would have cost some \$135 million. If there are people across the way who want to know how we would have financed it, we could have sold Suncor. This very day, as we sit here, the cash register is ticking away on Suncor. We are paying approximately \$91 million in interest a year on Suncor alone, never mind the rest of the government's white elephants and mistakes.

There is \$91 million that would have gone into socially assisted housing right there, never mind the land banks we are carrying, never mind the advertising, never mind all the public relations people in the cabinet, never mind the bloated cabinet. There is money, and there is waste and fat in this government. By its own admission in this document of 1982, it owns up to that, but it has done very little about dealing with that matter at all.

Because of the agreement on the time, I have not been able to deal at any great length with the deficit of the Treasurer. I say now, and it has been said before, it is all smoke and mirrors; the whole budget is built on a false premise. I will predict right now that the deficit for Ontario for

this fiscal year will be a minimum of \$2.5 billion, if not \$2.7 billion, unless the feds come along and bail out the Treasurer again.

This budget has more to do with the Treasurer's so-called prospects than it has to do with the economy of Ontario. He has set up a straw man and he is hoping there will be an election before all the chickens come home to roost. His prognostications are as overly optimistic as his chances for the leadership, because once people understand the effect of this budget, the Treasurer's credibility is going to disappear.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Mr. Reid moves, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government be amended by deleting the words following "that" and adding thereto the following:

"This House deeply regrets the 1984 budget fails to recognize the most serious and fundamental problems facing Ontario today and condemns the government for:

"Ignoring the desperate plight of the 443,000 unemployed people in the province of Ontario and, in particular, perpetrating a cruel hoax on the 169,000 unemployed youth of this province by offering them nothing more than repackaged programs and hopes of private sector job creation;

"Continuing to collect exorbitant tax revenues from the citizens of Ontario, while at the same time refusing to rein in provincial government spending and, in particular, refusing to end such wasteful government expenditures for such excesses as the Suncor purchase, the land banks, Minaki Lodge, self-congratulatory government advertising, unnecessary government polling, the prolific use of expensive consulting services, among others;

"Introducing measures requiring expenditures by municipalities and school boards, while at the same time restricting transfer payments to those levels;

"Failing to provide tax relief to the tourism industry at a time when the provincial tourism deficit has reached a record level due to government-controlled tax and cost increases;

"Ignoring the special needs of women and, further, for continuing to impose upon them an unjustified and sexist tax on essential products;

"Further punishing low-income earners by increasing yet again OHIP premiums;

"Ignoring the plight of the Ontario farmer, who continues to face the very real prospect of bankruptcy;

"Refusing to deal with the problem of very serious shortages of affordable rental housing in numerous communities across the province;

"Continuing to cut back funding for environmental protection, at a time when concerns regarding the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink are at their highest;

"Continuing to neglect the essential need for a comprehensive and coherent economic strategy to guide the development of the province in an era of technological transition;

"Therefore, this government lacks the confidence of this House."

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, as is traditional in budget debate and budget reply, I would like to thank a number of people. I would like to thank my wife and two children for having the great good sense not to be here during a parliamentary debate. They have not been in the Legislature since my son, who is now 11, was expelled from the Legislature when he was 18 months old for chuckling during the Lord's Prayer.

I have been in constant touch with them over the last three or four days during the heavy work that has had to go into this budget debate. I found them a source of strength and inspiration.

I would like to thank my two assistants. I would like to thank Maureen Brown, my legislative assistant here at Queen's Park, for putting up with me over the last few days and also for making a heroic effort to get this speech into shape so it could be delivered this afternoon.

I would like to thank my constituency assistant Fay Lundquist, who has kept my constituents from my door for at least the last three or four days while I have been preoccupied with the budget.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to two of the finest researchers I have had the pleasure of working with in the New Democratic Party caucus research office. They are Chuck Rachlis and David Robertson, two of the finest men I have had the pleasure of working with. They have been a constant source of support, not only for me but for many of my colleagues over the last many months, if not years.

Mr. Bradley: Thirty for 22.

Mr. Foulds: Those two could take on 30 government experts any time, and they do. I would substitute either one of them for Tom Campbell at the drop of a hat and it would be an enormous improvement.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: That is why you are sitting on that side of the House and we are over here.

Mr. Mackenzie: Why don't you lock yourself up?

Mr. Laughren: Find a cell you will fit in.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: There will be eight fewer of you than last time.

Mr. Laughren: You are touchy, Nick.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Foulds: I haven't even been controversial.

The Acting Speaker: I think you are provoking them.

Mr. Foulds: I haven't even been provocative.

I want to start on a relatively low-key and mild level. The 1984 budget is clever, misleading and manipulative. It promises a lot and delivers little. It is a heroic exercise in public relations. It is creative accounting carried to spectacular heights.

The Treasurer's pronouncements leading up to the budget led most observers to expect massive tax increases. The Treasurer also vigorously rattled the sabre of the provincial deficit. Having played the bad guy prior to the release of the budget, the Treasurer now has the luxury of playing the good guy when these massive tax increases do not materialize.

This budget is designed to convey to those who are currently working that there will be jobs for those who are not working. Like the Treasurer's dance of the deficit before the budget, this is a cruel deception.

Unemployment is 9.1 per cent today. The Treasurer predicts the annual average rate of unemployment in the coming year will remain at 9.1 per cent. In other words, he expects absolutely no improvement in the job picture for the people of our province.

The budget creates a number of programs but it creates no jobs. In other words, there is no attack on unemployment. There is no minor or major attack to create jobs.

The bottom line, the top line and the middle line are all the same. Job creation was simply not a top priority for this government or for this Treasurer or for this budget this year. Those of us in this party believe jobs should be the number one priority, the number one concern, of any government of any political stripe in this day and age.

This is a budget that lacks courage, lacks vision and lacks compassion. It puts the fortunes of the governing political party ahead of the fortunes of the people of this province. It uses all the right rhetoric and all the wrong substance.

Let us give the Treasurer his due. Like the programs announced in his previous two ministries, Health and Industry and Trade, at first glance it looks good. In fact, the first provincial government advertisement promoting and announcing the government programs as a result of the budget was out in yesterday's morning papers as early as the stories on the budget itself.

I predict that, just as shamelessly as the federal government, the Ontario provincial government will use the taxpayers' money to sell and promote the political content of the budget to the people of this province. It will not be able to sell the economic contents of the budget to the people of the province, so it will have to sell the political contents.

I also predict we will see either a fall winter works budget or a late winter born-again Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program in advance of the next provincial election.

I admit freely that the budget may very well be a clever political document but I submit in all sincerity that it is a major economic exercise. There is no core, no unifying philosophy and no sense of vision in this budget.

This budget has all glitz and no substance. It gives the people of the province no sense of purpose and the unemployed no sense of hope.

4:50 p.m.

What does this budget offer the more than 4,000 men and women running out of unemployment insurance benefits in Sudbury this June as a result of the layoffs in the mining industry? What does it offer them when they face the reality of social assistance? It offers those families in that community absolutely nothing. It offers them no dignity, no hope, no jobs.

What does this budget offer the men and women at International Harvester, Otis Elevator Co., National Steel Car, Firestone Canada and Westinghouse Canada, all in Hamilton? All those plants over the years have had employment far in excess of what they have today. All have had substantial reductions in their work force. All the men and women in those plants work from day to day with a sense that it may be their jobs that go next. What does this budget do to increase their sense of security, their sense that the investment of their labour and their lifetime of work will result in lifetime jobs? This budget does nothing.

What does this budget do for the men and women at the CCM plant in Toronto who have been bilked and deprived of their pensions? This budget does nothing.

What does this budget do for the unemployed workers of the government-owned Can-Car rail plant in Thunder Bay who have not yet been called back to work? This budget does nothing.

I would submit that jobs, security and tax reform are good and decent objectives for a province 16 years from the turn to the 21st century. What does this budget do for job security and tax reform? This budget fails on all three counts.

I submit to the Treasurer that the government may fool the province for a day or two, or a week, a year, or even an election or two, but even this government will not be able to deceive the people of Ontario for ever. When the betrayal becomes apparent, the disillusion, the disappointment and perhaps even the retribution will be great. When history comes to be written and when people look back and realize the squandering of our rich potential, of our industrial heartland, of our natural resources, I believe the electoral judgement will be harsh. What does it profit a government to gain an election and lose the economic stability, the economic vitality of its people?

One of Canada's greatest poets, Earl Birney, once wrote of Canada and I paraphrase:

This is the case of a high school land
Dead set in adolescence.

For all its slickness, we have before us today the case of a high school budget of a government dead set in adolescence, living in an optimistic dream world, playing sleight-of-hand tricks that lead us nowhere. Like Earl Birney, I ask if it will learn to grow up before it is too late.

I sincerely hope for the sake of the province, for the sake of the people of the north, the southwest, the Niagara Peninsula, the Ottawa Valley, the Muskokas and Metro Toronto that in the next budget we will see more maturity and more substance.

The Treasurer's path through the ministries of Industry and Trade and through Health is littered with the debris of his announced programs, the glossy brochures, the fancy titles and no substance. The Treasurer's penchant for these things is now gripping the most important project a government engages in, budget-making.

At first glance, I imagine the public will say, "The budget is not so bad." On second glance, it is clear it needs to be rejected and on third and final reading it needs to be condemned.

Let us take a look at some of the Treasurer's gloss and let us debunk some of the myths that have already been set up. Let us look at his so-called youth programs. Let us take a look at

some of those things the Treasurer announced. Let us see what they really mean.

1. The Treasurer announces an Ontario Youth Trust, then asks somebody else to run it. He states that local firms will be asked to provide the funding, training, positions and jobs. They will be asked to contribute the staff and provide the counsellor. What is the Treasurer doing? Nothing. How much is the Treasurer spending? He cannot say. How many of our youth will be assisted? He has no idea. What will the takeup be by the private sector? No answer.

2. The Treasurer announces an Ontario Youth Corps. We asked in the lockup how many young people will get jobs. The Treasurer does not know. How much money is available? The Treasurer does not say. How much will the students be paid? No comment.

In fact, out of the dozens of programs, there are only two or three that have any numbers, any details. Do members know what would happen to the leader of the New Democratic Party and me if we went to the media studio and announced a program like the Treasurer's budget without a costing figure? We would be savaged in the press.

The Treasurer deserves to be savaged, and rightly so. He deserves to be savaged by the public as well. He has all those civil servants, all those experts, and he cannot produce the figures, not a single one. Of all the programs the Treasurer announced, there are few that have concrete details.

What do we know? We know the existing Ontario career action program will assist 16,000 young people on a short-term basis and we know the Ontario youth tourism program will provide 2,500 places for summer jobs at less than minimum wage. As for the residential centres program, the Treasurer tells the municipalities, volunteer groups and school boards to set it up; as for the Ontario youth start program, he tells community colleges to set it up in surplus space in public buildings.

It is no wonder there are no details. The Treasurer expects everyone else in the province to run the programs while his ministry sits around thinking up names for new programs. What I should say is new names for old programs.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, because you are an astute and attentive fellow, that the government announced in the throne speech, "Simply, economic renewal without meaningful work for our young would be a cruel illusion." The Treasurer, the sorcerer's apprentice taking after

his master the Premier, has perpetrated that cruel illusion.

The Treasurer stated he had rejected short-term jobs for youth in favour of long-term initiatives. In fact, if one reads closely, the Treasurer's major youth initiatives in this budget are all short-term job programs. Last year's accelerated as well as the regular Ontario youth employment program provided wage subsidies. This year the Treasurer says he has rejected that type of short-term program initiative in favour of what he calls the Ontario youth work opportunities subsidy program.

However, this will do exactly what the program he cancelled last year did. Last year the government committed \$55 million to a wage subsidy program. This year the budget commits \$80 million to the same kind of wage subsidy program under a different name; hardly an economic transformation for the young people of this province. In fact, this year's programs are the very same as last year's programs only they have jazzier names.

The Treasurer claims to be providing "an opportunity for every young person in Ontario," but the budget does not, and that is a fundamental deception. The cornerstone of the budget's new youth program is last year's leftovers, and they provide only 25,000 jobs for a year if the government spends the additional \$80 million promised, if enough businesses are attracted to take advantage of the wage subsidies.

These so-called initiatives for youth have a new twist. We have all heard of the story of the emperor who had no clothes; this is the story of the clothes that have no emperor. All the programs in the budget suffer from the same defect that the Treasurer's youth initiatives suffer from. Quite simply put, it is all style and no substance. In baseball terms, it is all fielding and no batting.

It is instructive, if I may speak off the cuff for a minute, that the youth commissioner they appointed is a former goalie. He will be stopping a lot of pucks out there. He will have a lot of shots on him because he has no forwards and no defence.

5 p.m.

Let us take a look at what happens in agriculture. The Treasurer states how wonderful his budget is with respect to what he is doing for agriculture. Immediately, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which has more sense than the Treasurer, called it "a downer" and sensibly asked the Treasurer to resign. My colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) will

be dealing with those matters in substance later on in this debate.

Let us take a look at what he announced with regard to the automotive industry. As far back as 1975, the Ontario budget contained a background paper on the auto industry. Every throne speech since 1981 has talked about the auto industry and the need to act. Now, finally, the government acts.

What does the budget do? The budget announces programs that the former Treasurer—I almost said the old Treasurer—the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) virtually promised in a speech a few months ago as Minister of Industry and Trade. This budget pledges \$30 million over three years. That works out to \$10 million a year.

Have the members ever wondered what \$10 million a year buys in restructuring and retooling the auto parts industry? I will give an example. Forty million dollars invested in Volkswagen's Barrie auto parts plant means about 200 jobs. At that rate, the Treasurer's \$10 million will generate 50 jobs a year. That is hardly a major restructuring of the auto industry. At Daal Specialties alone, an auto parts producer in Collingwood, eight times as many jobs have been lost in the last two years. The \$10 million the Treasurer is giving to restructure the auto industry represents about five days' worth of profits at General Motors plants.

Taxation: Let us look at the second perception about the 1984 budget. The Treasurer claims he has avoided tax increases, but the budget increases Ontario health insurance plan premiums, and it will increase property taxes substantially. It indicates the province will collect nearly twice as much in personal income tax as it did in 1980-81 at the same time that corporate income revenue has gone down. It has allowed the home heating tax credit to expire. As a result of ad valorem taxes, we will pay \$44 million more in gasoline taxes, \$41 million more in tobacco taxes and \$16 million more in motor vehicle fuel taxes.

I want to emphasize that one of the taxation points we take the strongest exception to is that most regressive form of tax, OHIP premiums, which have increased yet again. OHIP rates are going up by 4.9 per cent. That will cost \$714 a year for family coverage.

One statistic I have seen indicates that based on a 40-hour week, the average worker in Ontario pays 34 cents an hour for every hour he works to cover the basic needs of health care. I find that scandalous. If the Treasurer wants to

argue that it is the employers that pay these premiums, and not the employees, he should remember that the employees have given up wages in lieu of these benefits. He should remember that many of the hardest hit in our society, the unorganized and the lowest paid, do not have these premiums paid for them by their employers. Even constituency officers working for MPPs in their ridings, who make reasonable but by no means fantastic wages, have to pay their own OHIP premiums. I find that totally unacceptable.

Coupled with that, premium assistance has been frozen again for the fourth year in a row. As well, as a result of this budget, property taxes will increase unless municipal services are drastically cut. The Treasurer blithely predicts that inflation will rise to 5.3 per cent. What happens to school boards and municipalities?

Mr. Wildman: Mel Lastman will tell you.

Mr. Foulds: That is right. Mel Lastman has already been telling us.

Unconditional payments to municipalities will rise by 5.2 per cent, below the Treasurer's predicted rate of inflation. Transfers to school boards will rise by 4.5 per cent, below the current rate of inflation. Transfers for roads will rise by only 3.1 per cent, below inflation. Transfers for transit will rise by only 2.9 per cent, once again below inflation. Transfers for recreation will fall by a whopping 27 per cent.

At a time of unemployment and increasing technological development, surely the recreational field is one we should be putting more of our budgetary allotments into.

The Treasurer is transferring on to the backs of the property taxpayers and on to the backs of municipalities the costs of inflation and any modest increase in services they might wish to provide. Therefore, I want to move to another section. I want to get to a major component of budgeting in this province.

It is absolutely essential that this province engage in major tax reform. For far too long Ontario's low- and middle-income earners have been paying more than their fair share of taxes. They are the most highly taxed in Canada and they pay as much in personal taxes to their provincial government as they do to their federal government. Meanwhile, the well-off remain among the most generously treated.

While this injustice to our low- and middle-income earners has been carried on by our taxation system, the province's tax credits have not changed since 1974. In other words, while

personal taxation increases, tax credits are disappearing. Let me just cite three examples.

In 1974, a family that today would have an income of \$25,000 would have been able to claim a tax credit of \$160. However, today that same family can claim a tax credit worth only \$46 in 1974 dollar terms. In other words, it has experienced a substantial loss in tax credits. Is that fair?

The poor are also worse off. In 1974, the maximum tax credit a family would receive was \$500. The maximum benefit in 1983 was \$520, but in 1974 dollar terms that was only \$234. In other words, the poor had a real drop in hard dollar terms of \$266. In real terms they have had their tax credit cut in half. Is that fair?

Let us look at senior citizens. In 1974, the maximum tax credit seniors could claim was \$500. In 1983, the maximum tax credit available to a pensioner was \$570. In constant dollar terms the value of tax assistance to Ontario seniors has fallen to \$257, even at minimum levels. In other words, seniors have had their real tax credits cut in half during the Davis decade. Is that fair?

Let me just point out two other areas we consider to be enormously unfair provisions under Ontario's taxation system. The first is the tax break to corporations. At present almost \$3 billion of taxation owed to the public Treasury of Ontario by corporations in this province is being called deferred taxes. In other words, huge amounts of potential tax revenues which are recognized as legitimate taxes and are being assessed are not being collected as a result of this practice.

We in the New Democratic Party believe those taxes should be collected. If low- and middle-income individuals have to pay their taxes, we believe the corporations should have to pay theirs. If the corporate sector and its Tory friends are so obsessed with the deficit of this province, as they always are, they could wipe out the entire debt tomorrow if all those deferred taxes in the corporate sector were collected.

We believe, being the reasonable people we are, that would be too great a shock for Ontario's corporate and economic systems. However, we do believe it is about time the Treasurer began to collect these deferred taxes on an instalment basis. Let us say he began to collect these taxes at a 10 to 20 per cent level. That could gain us enormous revenues for the current fiscal year and for the next five fiscal years.

5:10 p.m.

Second, let us talk about the tax crunch on individuals. Of the provinces that have a surtax

on income tax, only Ontario, the province of opportunity, the place where one would rather be, applies this at very low income levels.

Any family in Ontario earning more than \$12,000 a year must pay this surtax. The bulk of the \$340 million in tax revenues generated by the Ontario income tax surtax comes from those earning less than \$40,000 a year. In other words, the bulk of the revenue comes from the middle class. In other provinces only the high-income earners—that is, those earning \$40,000 or more—are affected by a similar provincial surtax.

In Ontario, a family earning about \$25,000 can expect to pay a surtax of about \$60. In Ontario, those at high-income levels pay an increased surtax, but only modestly so, of about \$289 for a family earning \$70,000. However, in Manitoba that same high-income family would be paying a surtax of \$1,301. We believe the Manitoba model and the Manitoba attitude towards an income surtax are fair. We believe the Ontario attitude towards the income surtax is not fair. An income surtax, if there is to be one, should be on those who can afford it—the high-income earners.

I want to talk about a fair taxation system for this province. Very briefly, we believe in a policy of fair taxation, and fair taxation means just that. This government's frantic efforts to create and maintain an attractive business climate have failed to generate a strong economic recovery. Despite the expenditure of hundreds of millions of tax-incentive dollars, the jobs we need have not materialized.

We in this party say there is no economic recovery worth talking about unless there is a job recovery. The government has paid for its more than \$2 billion of corporate tax expenditures with more than \$2 billion of increases in revenues from personal taxes. We in the New Democratic Party say that is simply not fair.

Personal taxes have increased for a middle-class, single-income family of four by more than \$700 since 1981. Over those three years, such a family has paid more than \$1,400 in personal tax increases imposed by the Davis government. We in the New Democratic Party believe that is not fair.

Let us contrast that with the almost 3,000 people in Ontario with incomes of more than \$50,000 who paid not a cent of income tax in 1981. Of those people, 95 with incomes averaging \$437,000 paid not one cent of income tax in 1981, the most recent year for which statistics are available. The income that is not taxed amounts to about \$285 million. We in the New Demo-

cratic Party think it is not fair that income should not be taxed.

We think we are making fair and equitable tax proposals. We think these proposals balance the need for income with the need to provide service and the need to relieve the middle- and low-income earners. I would briefly like to outline them.

The inequities in Ontario's tax system are not just the product of the tax agreements with the federal government, despite the Treasurer's best attempts to shirk responsibility. The bulk of the unfairness in the Ontario tax system is made right here in Ontario by the not-so-friendly provincial Conservative government. The figures themselves make the point loud and clear.

At a family income level of \$15,000 a year, Ontario ranks first in the country in provincial taxes levied. At a family income level of \$25,000, Ontario barely slips to second place in the tax burden race. On the other hand, at a family income level of \$100,000 a year, Ontario is the third-lowest taxing province. It is beaten in generosity to the rich only by Alberta and British Columbia.

The government claims great things for the tax credit system. It argues that it softens the blow for low- and moderate-income families and for senior citizens. But as I have already outlined, that no longer is the case. The facts belie the boast. Since 1974 the real value of the tax credits available to senior citizens has dropped by 49 per cent. For the poor, the value has dropped by 53 per cent and for the hard-hit middle-income taxpayer, the value of the credits has dropped by 71 per cent.

The injustice that low- and middle-income families face in this province is intolerable and must be changed. Our proposals are a step towards achieving that goal. We are proposing tax initiatives in three areas. First is the elimination of unfair taxes and better protection for low- and middle-income earners. Second is to increase taxes on high-income earners, banks and other financial institutions. Third is to have programs to assist the men and women of Ontario in responding to the opportunities created by technological change in industrial restructuring.

We would suggest that OHIP premiums be reduced by shifting 20 per cent of the OHIP revenues from direct premiums to the taxation system. We would suggest that OHIP premium assistance be increased to provide guaranteed free coverage for families at the low-income threshold. We would also suggest that OHIP premium assistance be provided so that there

is free coverage for unemployment insurance recipients.

We believe, as well, there should be an unemployment insurance tax credit, which would cost \$50 million. This would provide direct tax relief to the unemployed. We also are suggesting a registered retirement savings plan tax credit provincially to provide low- and middle-income earners with the same tax advantage high-income earners receive from the federal taxation system.

We would increase taxes by an income surtax that we estimate would get us a revenue of \$100 million by replacing the current surtax which affects those earning as little as \$12,000. We would replace that with a surtax on taxpayers earning only in excess of \$40,000.

We would also institute a bank tax that we estimate would get us a revenue of \$100 million by introducing a 10 per cent tax on net income of financial institutions, excluding credit unions, in Ontario.

Finally, we would recover the deferred corporate taxes on a staged basis. We estimate the revenue from that would be about \$300 million annually, if a 10 per cent interest rate was charged.

As well, we believe, in terms of job security, we should be undertaking training and retirement programs. An early retirement program would provide income support and pension benefit protection to lay off older workers who voluntarily choose retirement at 60 or over. This would be funded by a one per cent payroll tax. We would also establish a work future's training fund which would provide paid educational leave on the basis of bank credits built up over time. This would be funded by a levy per employee-hour worked of one per cent on employers and matched by the government.

Despite the Treasurer's assurance in his December 1983 prebudget statement that "in employment we have regained almost 90 per cent of the ground lost during the recession," job security remains a crucial concern.

Only 70,000 more men and women are working in Ontario now than were employed in March 1981. For young people, things have been much harder. In March 1981, 922,000 young men and women aged 15 to 24 were working in Ontario. In March 1984, there were 850,000—a net loss, a hard loss, of 72,000 jobs.

5:20 p.m.

Job security means keeping the jobs we have. It also means creating new employment opportunities for the many thousands of unemployed people across the province and ensuring that as

skilled workers grow older, suitably educated and skilled young people are available to do the work required by a buoyant economy.

It means giving older workers retraining and early retirement options. It means measures to replace older workers who choose to retire early with younger workers, and it means more action on a shorter work week and stronger overtime pay provisions.

For these reasons, we have advocated a broad range of job security measures over the past few months, including a layoff fund, an early retirement fund, a futures training fund, a shorter work week, limits on overtime and better overtime pay, a youth education training act, ongoing funds for a finish-high-school program, a grant levy system to support private sector training efforts and a multi-year program to combat illiteracy among Ontarians.

I would now like to turn to some steps that I believe would genuinely rebuild our economy.

The Treasurer's budget fails in any significant way to deal with the traditional strength of Ontario's economy, the manufacturing and the resources sectors, nor has there been any genuine evaluation of the job creation potential of the small business sector.

There must be a dramatic re-evaluation of Ontario's economic policies and programs. Old solutions of encouraging more foreign investment with no strings attached, as displayed by the present Minister of Industry and Trade, offer Ontario little hope for economic transformation.

The much-touted Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program has clearly demonstrated the difference between an economic strategy and an electoral strategy, and so does this budget.

The New Democratic Party strategy for recovery is based on the creation of permanent jobs, industrial restructuring, resource development and local and regional development. This means a commitment to full employment and a creative use of public investment.

It has always been seen as legitimate for governments to invest in public works projects ranging from roads and sewers to hospitals and schools. As well as those traditional things, what is needed now is an equal commitment to public investment and productive activities.

Let me give a few examples. Ontario imports more than \$35 billion of manufactured goods every year. If only 15 per cent were replaced by domestic products, 60,000 direct jobs would be created; many more would be created in spinoff activities.

The Ontario government, municipal governments and other public agencies in the province spend \$3 billion a year on foreign goods. That is equivalent to exporting 30,000 jobs every 12 months.

Ontario is a leading agricultural producer, but we maintain trade deficits in food, pave over some of the best agricultural land in the world and fail to support the farm community.

We have incredible forestry potential, but we are facing a wood shortage and are reliant on foreign suppliers for our machinery inputs and for our fine paper products.

We have minerals in abundance, but we do not process them here. We have peat deposits, but we mine less than 0.001 per cent of them and do not process them at all for energy.

We have one of the largest markets in the world for high value added parts, but we fail to develop domestic production.

We hear increasingly about Ontario's rosy future as a high-technology producer, but our electronics industry, for example, shows a deficit that has continued to grow at an alarming rate.

To turn current opportunities into genuine future jobs requires political commitment and planned public investment.

Instead of trying to pick the winners blindfolded, the government must begin to create them. Instead of looking for the winners somewhere else, the government must recognize that most of Ontario's industries can be winners or losers depending on whether they get sufficient capital investment and depending on whether the production takes place here or somewhere else.

I want to touch on two areas where government investment would be not only an investment in industry but also an investment in jobs, people and the future. They are the automotive sector and the mining and forestry machinery sector. I am using these as examples of what could be done in this great province by genuinely restructuring the economy and creating jobs in what has been our traditional area of strength, our manufacturing industry.

The automotive sector remains the foundation of Ontario manufacturing. Far from being a declining industry, renewed automotive production holds the promise of new jobs and important spinoffs to other industrial sectors, from basic steel to electronic componentry.

The current problems in the industry are well understood. There is the failure of the auto pact to provide Canada its fair North American share of investment, research and development, as well as a balance between assembly and parts

production. Second, there is the dramatic market penetration of offshore imports without offsetting Canadian production, value added jobs. Third, there is the weakening of the domestic parts sector and the rapid increase in our deficit in the parts trade.

These problems will only be resolved with effective government action and investment. This means federal legislation, which in the short term limits offshore imports. However, it also means the introduction of domestic content regulations as other countries have done. It means a program of government investment, particularly in the auto parts sector.

Our suggested crown automotive investment program, Autocan, would enter into joint venture and production agreements with domestic and international automotive producers to increase Canada's production of high value added auto parts, such as engines, transaxles and electronic components. Such a program, combined with content legislation, could potentially generate 35,000 new jobs in Canada, at least a substantial portion of them here in Ontario.

By way of illustration, I want to talk about forestry and mining machinery. While mining and forestry account for a significant portion of Ontario's economic output, neither sector provides the important industrial spinoffs which are vital to a resource-based industrial strategy.

The high and growing level of import penetration in the resource machinery sector continues to act as a brake on the Ontario economy. It reduces the resource sector to one of simple exploitation and extraction.

I remember when, as a boy growing up, my father helped to build the iron ore dock, which is right in the centre of the harbour at Thunder Bay. Every time we saw a carload of iron ore going out from the mines of Atikokan, being put on those ships and transported to the United States, we knew we were exporting not merely ore but jobs.

Years later, when the mines at Atikokan closed down, what did we have left? We had not the jobs in the resource sector, nor the jobs in trans-shipping the ore, nor the jobs that should have been built up in the intervening years in the manufacturing and secondary sectors.

Mr. Stokes: Even worse, we are now importing iron ore from the United States.

Mr. Foulds: Precisely. Part of the closure of the mines at Atikokan was a planned strategy to import iron ore into Ontario from the United States, when we had rich iron ore here in the province.

For a moment, I will turn to the forest-based industries. Despite the fact that Canada's major exports are forest-based products, accounting for 80 per cent of the total exports in the country, the development of the forest machinery industry has lagged far behind that of other countries with smaller domestic bases. For example, it lags behind those of all the Scandinavian countries.

Despite the fact that Canada is one of the world's chief mineral producers, the country remains one of the world's largest importers of mining machinery. In 1981, Canada imported \$727 million worth of mining equipment, a 229 per cent increase in five years. Our annual trade deficit is about \$600 billion, a value of production equivalent to 7,000 jobs.

5:30 p.m.

Although it is unrealistic to expect to wipe out that deficit in a short time, it is clear that specific opportunities, from open-pit mining equipment through classifiers to process furnaces, can be developed. A resource machinery investment program, building and making our machinery for mining here in Ontario, would create thousands of jobs and provide new industrial opportunities in centres such as Sudbury, Timmins and Thunder Bay.

Similar programs could create jobs in the manufacturing sector. I have just chosen two, the automotive sector and the mining machinery sector, but we could choose food processing, energy development, health care supplies or pollution abatement equipment. These are all possible, and why in blazes do we not do it here in Ontario? We have the people, the resources, the market, the potential and the expertise. The only thing we lack is the political will from this government.

I want to turn for a moment to the human side of the economics of Ontario and quote at some length from a speech made in Thunder Bay on April 26, 1984, by Most Rev. John O'Mara, the Roman Catholic bishop of Thunder Bay. He said this:

"Our Society considers 'capital' as the dominant principle of economic life. This orientation directly contradicts the ethical principle that labour, not capital, must be given priority in the development of an economy based on justice.

"We believe that God made the world and everything in it for all mankind. We believe that every man and woman is called to develop and use his or her talents by sharing in God's creative activity. We believe that an economy that can tolerate an unemployment level of 12 per cent and a youth unemployment level of more than 20

per cent is not reflecting this basic Christian principle."

The bishop goes on:

"Recently, my barber said to me, 'Bishop, we are making Indians out of our young people.'

"I knew what he meant, even though I would not have said it that way. His point was that here in northwestern Ontario we see the results of government policy towards the native people having taken away their traditional means of livelihood. When hydro dams raised the water levels, and roads and timber harvesting drove away the animals, they were put on welfare.

"Now, 20 years later, many of them have lost their purpose in life and their sense of accomplishment and a sense of responsibility that goes with it. In alarming numbers they have become alcoholics, and violence and suicide and other forms of antisocial behaviour have become rampant in their communities and in our white communities too.

"Now our society is doing this to our youth. How long can a young man or young woman look for work and not find any? Can they accept a refusal 10 or 20 times, for a month, or a year, or for several years? Dare we say to them, either to the native people or to our youth, that we can organize a truly human society, much less a truly Christian society, without a need for their talents?

"It is my contention that it is not good enough to tell them to stay in school, to take another course or another degree, or to say that they should not worry because the welfare net will look after them.

"Which of you would be foolish enough to say to your son or daughter, 'Don't worry about working or accepting responsibility; I will look after you,' and then, at the age of 25 or 30, expect them to be mature, responsible individuals?

"We grow and mature through the work that we do, through the challenges we meet, through the responsibilities we accept. Work puts order into our lives and gives us a sense of accomplishment. Work, in some form or other, is necessary for human survival.

"In conclusion, I return to the parable of the good Samaritan. Jesus told the story to answer the question, 'Who is my neighbour?' By it, he taught his followers that their care and concern must extend to everyone in need. We must bind up their wounds, feed them and find them a place to sleep.

"I believe that this same parable also calls us to protect them, to guide them from exploitation, from marginalization, from being seen as or

becoming useless members of our society. We cannot wait until the robber has done his deed before we recognize the potential victim and come to his aid. Nor can we shrug off our responsibility by blaming society on government or economic conditions.

"The future of Canada is ours to design and fashion...."

Bishop O'Mara said many things that I believe and that I believe my party believes. He said them much more profoundly and eloquently than I could.

The future of Ontario is ours to design and fashion. I admit that government cannot do it alone. I admit that industry and labour cannot do it alone. The communities of our province cannot do it alone. Even Ken Dryden cannot do it alone. I do believe, however, the provincial government can and does have a special responsibility. That responsibility is very simple; it is the responsibility to show leadership, to show courage, to show initiative. I believe that as a parliamentarian and as a democrat.

I believe this budget fails those tests. Not only has this budget failed to take direct initiatives, but it also fails even to give the tools to our young people, our communities, our workers, to do the jobs themselves. Most important, it fails to create jobs. This budget fails to put jobs ahead of profits, to put security ahead of selfishness, to put fairness in tax reform ahead of political advantage. It was a sparkling and a dazzling performance, but it will burn itself out quickly. It is in essence a timid, if not a cowardly, budget.

I remain an optimist and an unrepentant democratic socialist. I believe labour is more important than capital. Without labour there is no such thing as wealth. Without work there is no such thing as creativity. Work, whether it is the work of the mother, the artist, the labourer or the businessman, is the key ingredient in shaping our society and our very natures. The budget fails to recognize that.

I believe people are much more important than profits. I believe economic common sense is more important than public relations. I believe jobs are far more important than this budget recognizes. Job security and tax reform are simple matters of justice. This budget fails to recognize that. For all these reasons, neither I nor my party will support this budget. We will be moving an amendment at a future date that shows no confidence in this government and this budget.

The House recessed at 5:38 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, May 17, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 17, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to certain bills in his chambers.

Clerk of the House: The following are the titles of the bills to which His Honour has assented:

Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the City of Toronto;

Bill Pr6, An Act respecting the City of Kitchener;

Bill Pr17, An Act respecting the Oakville Young Men's Christian Association-Young Women's Christian Association;

Bill Pr20, An Act to continue the Corporation of the Townships of Shackleton and Machin under the name of the Corporation of the Township of Fauquier-Strickland.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Stevenson: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and take part in the debate on the 1984 Ontario budget. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to have the opportunity to speak in support of this budget and the economic and social programs and policies that were stated in it.

I want to take the opportunity to congratulate the Treasurer, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), for tabling such an imaginative document. I believe it will assist the people of this province in their efforts to deal with the challenges, economic transformations and so on that are going to face us in the future. It will assist the people of Ontario in successfully exploiting the new opportunities that will be placed in front of us.

In expressing my positive views on this budget, I feel I am expressing not only the views of my friends in the Progressive Conservative caucus, but I am also speaking on behalf of a vast majority of the citizens and taxpayers of the

province. We have before us a budget which looks to the future of this province and speaks to the aspirations of the people of Ontario.

It is a budget which, through its strategic investments in our human resources, an innovative approach to technological development, a commitment to the modernization of our industrial plants, and programs to encourage and reward entrepreneurial activity in our economy, will ensure that Ontario remains a dynamic player in the evolving post-industrial system.

Moreover, this budget includes programs that will significantly assist industries, such as agriculture, forestry and tourism, which have in the past generated tremendous wealth for the people of Ontario. This budget puts in place measures to ensure that our industries will continue to contribute to the wellbeing of the province.

It is a budget that continues and expands this government's long-standing commitment to prudent, sensible management of the public purse and to public sector restraint. In this fiscal year this government will again provide this province with the fiscal stability necessary to attract job-creating investments.

While the economic programs and policies of the budget may be of paramount interest to the public, the important social initiatives this budget will support must not be overlooked. Through the budget, this government has committed itself to programs that will involve the access of women to the labour market and help break the tragic and socially enervating cycles of welfare dependency that rob so many young people of increased opportunities. It will help improve the quality of life for the elderly and open to single parents those choices so many of us take for granted.

What has impressed me most about this budget, and what I believe has impressed the taxpayers of the province, is that it recognizes and respects the fact that there are limits to what the government itself can accomplish. This budget invites our local governments, universities, voluntary organizations and businesses to contribute to the achievement of our common goal.

Mr. McKessock: Go over what it does for agriculture again.

Mr. Stevenson: We will get to that. Yes, I will gladly go over what it does for agriculture any time.

This government, through the budget, has put in place the framework within which we can work together to ensure that Ontario's future will offer to her citizens the same range of economic opportunities and the same social generosity that have characterized her past.

To accept that there are limits to what a government acting alone can accomplish does not abdicate the responsibility on the part of government; quite the contrary. Government has a responsibility to lead people, but not to mislead them into believing it has the capacity to solve every problem single-handedly.

If government intervention in the economy could guarantee economic growth, then the planned economies of the eastern bloc would be the workers' paradise they try so hard to convince us they are. If deficit spending were the answer to every economic problem, the key to full employment, then we in Canada, the United States and in any number of western countries would be in economic heaven.

Mr. Stokes: You sound as though you are walking in with a balanced budget.

Mr. Stevenson: I will get to what the budget is going to do.

Mr. Stokes: C. D. Howe used to say, "What's a million?" You say, "What's two and a half billion?"

Mr. Stevenson: Just hold your horses.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stevenson: I know the member is so excited he can hardly wait. After what went on in question period today, I can tell how supportive he is and how empty it is to try to shoot down the budget. Anyway, we will gradually get to all the good things here.

That, of course—and we are talking again about great deficit spending—is not the case. Government intervention becomes counterproductive when the cost of intervention is the suppression of individual initiative, the loss of investment, the exploitation of the taxpayer and the creation of a dependent citizenry.

I do not believe the people of this province want the government to do it all for them. I do not believe the people of Ontario want the government to become a gigantic baby-sitting service. The 1984 budget demonstrates that this government, unlike some of the members opposite, I

might say, is very aware of the factors that separate constructive participation from destructive interference.

The budget further demonstrates that, where necessary, this government is more than willing to commit the resources required to redress social and economic inequities. I believe the people, the communities and the industries of this province will work with this government to build our economic future. I have every confidence they will make the best advantage of the opportunity this budget provides.

8:10 p.m.

I am aware that my view of this budget and my confidence in the people of Ontario are not shared by some of my friends across the floor. To be frank, their reflex negativism is shown in the fervour with which they have mounted their favourite critical hobby-horses, and that is the source of some comfort to me. Were they ever to do otherwise, I would begin to fear that we on this side of the House had done something wrong.

I note there has been considerable speculation in the press as to whether this is a pre-election budget. When this question was put to the leader of the official opposition, he reportedly replied, "If they want to run, let us have an election on it." I felt that was a rather strange response. Less than a month ago, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) was accusing the government of blatant opportunism for considering a snap election.

While a snap election proved to be nothing more than some paranoia, I thought then that the leader, who last November told his party's annual conference that he would form a minority government after the next election, would have welcomed an early chance to cross the floor. Apparently they were not as eager as I thought. Actually, I would be quite happy to go to the people in the great riding of Durham-York on this budget.

The second reason I found the leader's response somewhat peculiar—and I sort of agree with his response—is that I feel it is quite a good budget and I certainly have no reluctance whatsoever to go to the people on a budget of this quality. I can only say in response that competence may appear unexciting, but this government was elected to provide sound, responsible and sensitive management of the province's affairs. We are not mandated to supply the opposition with any cheap thrills.

As for the third party, its leader has said of the budget, "It has a lot of ideas, our ideas, but no

money and no substance." I will address the question of substance later, but for the moment I simply say to my friends in the New Democratic Party that, thankfully, the ideas in the budget are not their ideas. Our ideas have won us the trust of the people of Ontario and the privilege of serving as the government in this province. Their ideas have won them a position in public opinion polls so low that soon they will have to search for their position in the polls.

The opposition parties' views are not shared by many groups and individuals in the province. For example, the president of the Investment Dealers' Association of Canada has congratulated the Treasurer for holding the line on taxes, an opinion seconded by the president of the Retail Council of Canada. The director of research for the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association of Canada welcomed the government's \$30-million assistance fund for his industry and estimated it could generate up to \$300 million in investment. The president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has said he is very excited by the budget and described it as a bellwether budget, the kind one is going to see across the country.

Mr. McKessock: Let us get to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Mr. Stevenson: We are coming to that. We have a good big section. I would be quite happy to speak at great length about the agriculture system.

I regard the 1984 Ontario budget as the most significant budget in recent years. It lays out a blueprint of long-term strategic economic programs and investments that are the foundations on which the economic and social future of this province will be built. The budget introduces a range of comprehensive programs. While it would be impossible to comment on them all, I will single out a few specifically noteworthy initiatives of particular interest to the constituents in the great riding of Durham-York.

In the area of employment and job training, the severe international recession of 1981-82 created increased unemployment throughout the industrialized world. As all members are aware, young people were especially hard hit by the economic downturn. Youth unemployment rates escalated and the differential between youth unemployment rates and the general unemployment rates increased.

Last year there were more than 11 million young workers unemployed in 12 major countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the average

youth unemployment rate stood at 18.5 per cent. By late 1983, 42 per cent of the 12.5 million unemployed workers in countries of the European Economic Community were under the age of 25 years. In Ontario we also experienced an increase in our youth unemployment rate, with the rate climbing from a seasonally adjusted 12.4 per cent in 1981 to 17.9 per cent in 1983 and to a peak rate of 20.2 per cent in April 1983.

Though youth unemployment in Ontario was high in 1983, it was on average two percentage points lower than the national rate. However, all members in this House rightfully regard that rate as being unacceptably high. Over the past two fiscal years, this government has committed more than \$211 million to help generate some 193,000 short-term jobs for young people in the province. The government has also made a significant commitment to youth training programs. The 1983 budget, for example, supplemented the training in business and industry program and supported its new training programs.

As a result of government programs and the economic recovery, youth unemployment rates have moderated. Rates for the first quarter of 1984 are significantly lower than rates for the first quarter of 1983. While there has been some improvement, this government believes youth unemployment rates are still too high. In the speech from the throne which opened this session, this government made a commitment to expand its youth employment programs. Through this budget, the government has met that commitment. The budget establishes a \$600-million, three-year strategy for targeted investments in youth training and experience and in retraining for experienced workers.

A big part of this strategy is directed to the \$450-million Ontario youth opportunities fund, which will support 10 imaginative and innovative programs designed, as the budget says, to provide an opportunity for every young person in the province. As promised in the throne speech, our youth programs have been consolidated under one window and will be co-ordinated through Ontario youth opportunities and the youth commissioner, Mr. Ken Dryden, who was appointed today.

Mr. Nixon: The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) did a good job at that when he had it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Robinson): Order.

Mr. Stevenson: In the 1984-85 fiscal year, it is anticipated Ontario youth opportunities will invest between \$160 million and \$180 million in youth training and experience programs. I shall

not review each of the 10 programs that will be supported by the \$450-million youth opportunities fund.

Mr. Nixon: There is the member for Brantford now, bruised, sacked from the youth secretariat.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stevenson: While many of these programs are quite novel and have never been implemented anywhere in the country before—this government took the lead in that—they all have one thing in common. They are not a loosely connected, ad hoc series of stopgap measures.

Mr. Nixon: We are just trying to help the member's speech out a little bit.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Durham-York has the floor.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Stevenson: They represent a co-ordinated, comprehensive response to a serious problem and are designed to assist those of our young people who most need help in the labour market and to provide the youth of Ontario with the opportunity to acquire the skills and experience they will need to participate in the labour force.

It has been noted by some critics that many of our youth programs will depend on private sector participation for their success. This, in my view, is a major strength of the strategy. It is the private sector, not the public sector, which creates jobs in this province. Between 1975 and 1981, for example, 97 per cent of employment growth in Ontario was in the private sector.

The private sector is ideally positioned to assist this government in finding employment and training opportunities for young people and in equipping young workers with marketable skills and meaningful experience. I have every confidence that business people in Ontario will respond positively to the Treasurer's invitation to help build a secure future for the young workers of the province.

Now I would like to move into the programs for small business.

The private sector generates by far the greatest number of new job opportunities in this province. This government has always endeavoured to implement policies which will maximize job creation potential in the private sector. In particular, this government has been very conscious that it is the small business sector which creates most of the new jobs in our economy.

As has been noted in this House on other occasions, the small business sector creates jobs

at about twice the rate of big business. In Ontario, the small business sector creates more than two thirds of all new jobs in our economy. From 1975 to 1982, small firms which were less than two years old created 18.5 per cent of all the new jobs in Ontario.

In 1982, to help the small business sector cope with this recession and in an effort to stimulate employment growth in that sector, this government introduced a two-year tax holiday for qualified small businesses in Ontario. In our 1983 budget, this corporate income tax exemption, which in its first year had returned to the small business sector some \$250 million, was extended for an additional year.

In the 1984 budget, this government has again acted to assist the small business sector in this province. New small firms will be exempt from Ontario corporate income tax for the first three years of incorporation. This is a measure which will provide an estimated \$45 million annually to the small business entrepreneurs.

The small business development corporations program, which has provided more than \$70 million in grants and tax credits to enterprising Ontarians, has helped some 488 small businesses raise more than \$200 million in capital and has allocated \$25 million to encourage investment in the small business sector.

Small businesses, which are often the most innovative and risk oriented in our economy, will also benefit from the technology diffusion training program and the \$10-million enterprise growth fund.

I believe most members will agree that providing the people of this province with secure, well-paid jobs and with new employment opportunities ultimately depends on the existence of a vital, competitive private sector.

Through programs such as those introduced in the 1984 budget to assist small business by restraining the size of the public sector and by reducing the burden of government on our economy, this government will ensure that the private sector in this province will be able to adapt successfully to the economic transformations.

All too often the relationship between governments and the private sector is one of suspicion and antagonism. I am sure all members of this House have had conversations with business people in their ridings who have expressed the view that no sooner do they build a better mousetrap than the government comes along with a better mouse.

That is certainly not the case in Ontario. As in the past, this government in its 1984 budget demonstrated it is anxious to work in partnership with the business people and the entrepreneurs of Ontario to build a secure and prosperous future for the province.

Now I want to deal with the agricultural area.

Mr. Nixon: It is too bad there is not a farmer over there to be minister.

Mr. Stevenson: Actually, we have an exceptional minister right now who is doing a very good job.

As a representative of a riding in which the agricultural industry is the important economic factor, I was naturally pleased to see that the 1984 budget increased the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by 16.3 per cent over last year.

Mr. Ruston: They are just cooking the books.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stevenson: This increase is some \$47 million; it raises the budget of the ministry to \$335 million and represents the largest proportional increase awarded to any line ministry in the 1984-85 year.

Mr. Nixon: You must think farmers are stupid if you think they will buy that noise.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stevenson: Critics have argued that the size of the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is indicative of the fact that this government is indifferent to the future of the industry in this province. This is not the case. Certainly the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is small when compared to allocations to the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education—

Mr. Nixon: Or anything else.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stevenson: We will get to "or anything else" if the honourable member would like. However, in the areas of health and education, we pay the operating costs of these ministries, in the hospitals, schools and so on. We do not pay the operating costs of every farm in the province. We do not have the funds from the agricultural industry coming through government coffers before going out to the farmers; I have never heard any farmer in my area suggest we should.

Also, critics often conveniently overlook the fact that expenditures by the line ministry do not represent the total amount of funding and support the government provides for agriculture. Total government funding from all government sources

provided to agriculture amounted to more than \$450 million.

The increase awarded to the ministry this year indicates that the government strongly supports the Ontario farmer and is very aware of the contribution which our \$11 billion agrifood industry can make to the future of the province.

Mr. Nixon: Agriculture gets less than two per cent of the budget.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stevenson: Agriculture gets about three times what the Ministry of Industry and Trade gets. This government has led the development of a very innovative private sector and a very innovative industrial sector; it is one of the most up-to-date in the world.

The actual amount of funding or the percentage of the budget is not at all a significant factor. The important factor is whether the industry itself is well funded and whether the money that is put there is efficiently used. As one from an agricultural area, I certainly believe that in a time of restraint the government is doing quite an adequate job of funding that particular industry.

Mr. Nixon: They get \$40 million more from the tobacco tax.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

8:30 p.m.

Mr. Stevenson: As any member familiar with the industry will know, farming has become a very capital-intensive industry. The initial investment required to start up a farming operation today is very significant. For this reason, young farmers wanting to start their own operation welcome the \$9 million allocated to the beginning farmers program. I am equally certain they will put that money to good use.

This government's commitment of \$62 million over five years to support the new Ontario red meat plan will certainly assist efforts to rationalize that sector of the industry and ensure that Ontario producers remain competitive in the North American market.

Mr. McKessock: When is that program coming out? When are the details going to be announced?

Mr. Stevenson: Very soon. There are discussions with the industry representatives now, as I am sure the honourable member is aware, and some imaginative programs will come out of those discussions.

Personally, I believe the most significant initiative announced in the budget which affects agriculture is the government's declaration that it is committed to the establishment of a national

agribond and will work with the federal government to set up such a plan.

In recent years, there has been growing concern in the industry about the instability of the cost of credit to farmers. This concern has been fuelled by rising interest rates and a deterioration in the relationship between debt servicing requirements and net farm income.

This government has taken the lead in introducing programs to help farmers with credit difficulties and in proposing programs to stabilize farm incomes. Examples of those programs would be the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program and the tripartite stabilization program.

I am convinced that the agribond program, if it is to work effectively and achieve the objectives for which it would be established, must be a national program.

First, a national program is needed to give access to and attract a large pool of fresh capital required to provide long-term farm credit at a stable, affordable rate. Second, a national program would ensure that equitable conditions would exist for the industry in each province. Third, under a national program, the tax cost of the agribond program would be shared between the two levels of government.

The agribond program offers a viable alternative source of stable agricultural credit. I am pleased the government has come out in support of the agribond option, and I urge all members concerned about the future of the farm industry to contact our federal counterparts with the aim of gaining their support for this program.

The third major area I want to speak about is the tourism area, which is another significant economic factor in the great riding of Durham-York and around Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: An excellent minister.

Mr. Stevenson: The ministry is led by an excellent minister, who has visited the great riding of Durham-York on many occasions.

It is often noted that the tourism industry is one of the fastest-growing in the world and may be one of the largest by the year 2000. The industry is an important one in Ontario and last year generated some \$6.5 billion in revenue in the province.

Through this budget, the government continues to provide support for the tourism industry, which is a major employer in our province. The accommodation tax rebate program is but the latest in a series of programs this government has introduced to support the development of this industry.

Tax incentives to the tourism industry advanced by this government in the period 1975 to 1982 cost the taxpayers of this province \$159 million in revenue. That was money well invested in a growing and increasingly important sector of our economy.

I now want to refer to the community economic transformation area of the budget.

While the overall economic outlook for the province is quite good, this government recognizes there are communities which, owing to a combination of factors, have been harder hit than others by the past recession and will have a more difficult time adjusting to the forces of that economic change.

It was to help those communities that this government established a \$20-million fund to support community economic transformation agreements. As the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer I will be responsible for co-ordinating negotiations with our communities on transformation agreements.

These agreements will no doubt prove to be a valuable link between the provincial government and the local and municipal authorities, and will ensure that funding is directed to those areas where it is most needed and would do the most good.

I look forward to meeting with and hearing from community leaders interested in taking advantage of this program. I am sure that working together we will be able to better the economic prospects of these areas.

The 1984 budget sets forth a sensible, responsible and responsive economic agenda for this province. It introduces a great many new programs that will help the people of this province derive maximum benefit from the economic transformation.

Thanks to sound management of the province's finances, the government will be able to pay for these programs without any major tax increases—

Mr. Haggerty: That is not what Darcy McKeough said.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stevenson: —increases that would have undermined the potential for economic growth. It is a budget that reduces the provincial deficit and guarantees that the financial stability and integrity of the province are maintained.

It is a budget that presents a realistic economic forecast for the province during the coming year, a forecast that, as some members may know, was largely confirmed by the Conference Board of Canada projections issued today.

Mr. Gillies: Good projection the Treasurer made.

Mr. Stevenson: The rate of growth from the conference board was actually greater than that used by—

Mr. Gillies: It was about 0.1 per cent higher.

Mr. Stevenson: That is correct; 0.1 per cent.

Mr. Gillies: That is pretty close.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Durham-York has the floor.

Mr. Stevenson: It is a budget that has put in place policies and programs which will ensure that the prediction that Ontario will lead this nation in economic growth during the coming years is fulfilled.

For all these reasons, this is a budget that deserves the support of this House.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, it feels kind of expensive to get up and speak on this budget. I understand we are spending \$5,700 every minute in interest on our deficit; so it is mounting up pretty fast.

Anyway, I have been around here for 16 budgets, and it has been interesting to see what has happened. When Mr. Allan was here as Treasurer, he did not have deficit budgets. I think it was Mr. McKeough who, instead of having a deficit, started using a number of words for it. One was "shortfalls." What was the other one?

Mr. Nixon: "Net cash requirement." That was a nice one.

Mr. Ruston: "Net cash requirement." It was very difficult for a fellow who was running his own little hardware store or a farm to come down here and hear the government talking about how its net cash requirements were lacking. We just could not have kept on doing business if we had had that kind of net cash requirement in comparison.

This year, though, the name of the budget itself is difficult enough to accept. My first reaction to it when some reporter asked me the other night was that it seemed to me a con artist was making out this budget, because it is called "economic transformation."

8:40 p.m.

I did not get too many grades in any school in particular—I am an expert in most schools—but "economic transformation," in my opinion, can be used in a number of ways and this government holds the record for doing that. It uses whatever it thinks it can get away with each time. Whether it is "net cash requirements" or some other term,

the government is going to use it to confuse the people.

One thing we should all recognize is that this government is increasing taxation in this budget, which I have here in my hand, by at least \$1.64 billion. After the budget the other night, the newspapers said: "This is great. There is no increase in taxes. This is a great government, great budget." Yet they are going to collect an extra \$1.64 billion if the Treasurer is correct in his guess. My guess is he is going to be halfway out in left field, if not all the way out. If his estimates are correct, his taxes are going to increase by \$1.64 billion. That was more than the total budget for the first couple of years I was in this Legislature.

Mr. Eakins: What would Les Frost say about this?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ruston: I wonder that those in the government act that way. They try to con the people into thinking they are great managers. I would not want them managing the building of a dog house, buying the lumber and putting it together. It would be like the case at the Pentagon where somebody was charging \$900 for a 75-cent bolt. Those fellows across the way would be the last persons I would want to ask to do any bookkeeping or work for me.

The interesting part of this is they estimate the personal income tax will go up by \$1 billion. In most cases, that comes out before the person gets his cheque. In my area, at Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors, they are busy now and there are a lot of people paying a lot of income tax, but they will be surprised when they figure it will be increased by \$1 billion over all of Ontario, providing the Treasurer is correct in his estimate.

There is another increase. Two or three years ago they took off the corporations tax for small businesses under a certain amount. This year that is going back up \$330 million. The retail sales tax will be going up, but not by so much; only \$200 million or \$300 million.

The gasoline tax is going up \$44 million. To give an idea of how this government spends money, I will quote from Table 25 of the Ontario Motor League report on Ministry of Revenue estimated motor vehicle gasoline tax revenue: in 1979, \$538 million; 1984, \$976 million. The gasoline tax bill was brought in after the March 19 election. We can all remember when they brought in that bill. It had the ad valorem tax on it. The government put that on to confuse the people because today very few people understand what ad valorem is. Thank goodness I

learned that in sixth grade in public school. Most people have forgotten it.

Since June 1981 when that bill was brought in, there has been an ad valorem tax on a gallon of gasoline. We will go back to the gallon. I see the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) is here. He does not like the metric system. I understand he has been telling a lot of people we should not have the metric system, and going into Quebec and so forth, but he thinks it is great that Ontario and Quebec are having this fight over tomatoes. I have a feeling the gas tax then was 22 cents a gallon. Today it is 33.5 cents a gallon. Over three years that is a 50 per cent increase. The Treasurer calls that restraint. I do not call that restraint.

We would not mind so much that they were doing this if the money was going into roads, but the sad part is that in many of the municipalities the road system is deteriorating terribly and it has done so over the last couple of years. It is not the fault of the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow). If only he had a little power in cabinet. He is a very good minister of highways. He understands his department. When one goes there with people from one's area, they are well received. It is only a matter of minutes and he understands the road system and knows where they are located. He is well versed in his job, but he has no money. Somebody is not giving him the money. I suppose if one goes and buys an oil company for \$650 million and does not have any money, one cannot build roads.

Mr. Kolyn: Sell Petro-Canada.

Mr. Ruston: Yes, the window on the oil business.

The tobacco tax is an interesting one. I do not smoke, but I see the government is estimating it is going to collect \$40 million more in tobacco taxes. To think that the tobacco tax in the province is \$120 million more than the agricultural estimate itself, yet the government hesitates to help agriculture.

Mr. McKessock: More like \$200 million.

Mr. Ruston: One of my colleagues says \$200 million. I was being moderate.

The government keeps saying there are other ministries that do send some benefits out to agriculture and that does happen in some cases, but the strange part is we are collecting more tobacco tax than the whole Ontario agricultural budget.

I was talking to a former Minister of Agriculture and Food the other evening at dinner. Everyone would know William Stewart, who was the minister for a number of years and well respected in the farming community. If this

government does not get a better Minister of Agriculture and Food before the next election, it had better get William Stewart in here because otherwise the government is going to be done. That is all there is to it. The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) is just not in the right field at all. They say a farmer is a man out standing in his field. The Minister of Agriculture and Food is not a man out standing in his field.

Mr. Eakins: He does not have a field. He stands on his front lawn.

Mr. McKessock: Or on a paved street.

Mr. Ruston: Another area of increase is in the Ontario health insurance plan premium. As members well know, OHIP premiums are being increased. They are going up \$121 million. The Liquor Control Board of Ontario profits are going up \$34 million—we always like to say “sin taxes,” whatever one wants to call them—on liquor and beer.

I have a great deal of feeling right now about this government and to a lesser extent the government in Ottawa, because this government takes much more out than does Ottawa. When a working man can hardly afford to go into a hotel and have two or three glasses of beer after a day's work, there is something wrong with our economy.

There is nothing wrong with the economy except that the government is overtaxing such things as that. I am not afraid to stand up here and tell the government so. A lot of people cannot afford to take their family out, pay \$15 for a dinner and one thing and another. Maybe a person likes to go in and have a bite to eat and a couple of glasses of beer. The government is taxing beer so much now that a lot of people even have trouble doing that. It is time it stopped.

The trouble is that people see this new budget as having no increase in taxes on beer, liquor, tobacco and gasoline, but it has the ad valorem tax which was passed by a majority government and took away the right of an individual member to stand up and vote for or against the tax bill. That is the democratic system that the government has dared to take away from us, the very democratic system that built our country.

I was taught 45 or 50 years ago that taking away the rights of the elected person to vote taxes in was a blight. Only an irresponsible government would do that. The federal government has done the same thing. Of course we know the governments work together in almost everything, but these rascals in this government picked up the ad valorem tax and put it on all those sin

taxes so that it does not have to raise the tax in any one year. It just keeps sneaking it on without anybody even knowing about it. I think that is most unfair.

8:50 p.m.

I would be interested to see if the Mother of Parliaments has ad valorem taxes on those same items in Great Britain. I must have someone look into that. Being the great democratic country it is, and one that we look towards at times, I certainly hope it does not have them. That is something I must find out.

Vehicle registration fees are going up by \$39 million, the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario fees, licences and permits by \$15 million, other fees and licences by \$17 million.

According to my figures, without a calculator, that comes to \$1.64 billion. In addition, the government has done nothing to help the agricultural industry in Ontario. The government's day of reckoning is going to come. Agriculture has to be the most basic and important industry in Ontario, but since William Stewart left the government has ignored the agricultural economy of this province.

The Treasurer got up and talked about the great youth employment program he has. On the face of it, it certainly looks good, if we had not already seen some of the things that were put forward in other years. Most of them are rehashes; some of them a little more. They put them in a three-year or five-year program and keep holding off doing them. It is too bad.

Today the Treasurer introduced Mr. Ken Dryden, whom everyone knows as a very high-profile individual, well thought of in the communities. I have read a number of articles about some of the things his father is involved in.

A person in our area has joined in the venture of assisting people throughout the world in some places where they are destitute and have no place to stay. They are packing articles of bedding and so forth. It is not a food program, but it is something they are doing that sounds very wonderful. I know of a person from Kingsville, Ontario who joined that group and made a trip to India and other countries. They pass out kits of bedding material, so at least children have a place to lie down at night and can cover themselves.

It bothers me to think the government with its so-called programs hires some high-profile, well-known person to do it, so people expect a great deal. Someone said today Mr. Dryden will have to stop an awful lot of pucks from flying at him from the communities if something is not

done pretty soon regarding employment and the young people of Ontario.

Another item that was not even touched on is the 3,100 units of housing for low-income people. Such a small number is not even worth mentioning. We must have housing for people who cannot afford the places that cost so much to rent or build. We must have more housing of that type. There is really nothing here at all.

I did a little checking in my own area with regard to housing units. We are in a semi-rural small town with some bedroom communities serving Windsor. Even with the very limited number of housing units we have in the county of Essex, there are 71 people on the waiting list. The housing people tell us there are hundreds out there, but they do not bother applying because they know they cannot get the units. They are just not available, so people are not applying for them. Even in parts of Essex North, in my own riding, senior citizen housing units are in very short supply and there is a long waiting list for them. Family units are just not available at all.

One of the towns in my area went on a plan in which, if I remember correctly, all the money came from the federal government to finance a 24-unit apartment complex which Ontario Housing Corp. administers. It is a very small village, but it took a lot of persuading to get approval for it, especially through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. They kept saying there was no need for it, but it is filled up now and has a waiting list. I think 25 per cent are on a rent-geared-to-income basis and the balance are on a standard rental basis.

It is turning out well. That might be the only alternative. They formed a nonprofit corporation in the township. They built this complex in the little village where there was a sewage disposal system, etc., so it is working out well; but we have to have more senior citizen family housing.

One thing about building housing units is that practically 95 to 100 per cent of all the supplies and appliances are Canadian material. That creates a lot of employment. It is a shame the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), who has been very derelict in his duties as minister responsible for housing in this province, has not done his job in looking after that.

However, the main thing I want to stress to the members here is the increase in taxation. The Treasurer stated in his profile of the budget that he is expecting unemployment to stay about the same, yet he expects income to increase by nine per cent throughout the province. I do not know

how he can expect to get \$1.64 billion more. It is going to be difficult for that to happen.

On the other hand, he is proposing a deficit of \$2 billion next year, but I am predicting the deficit for next year will be \$2.6 billion. Interest rates have gone up in the last couple of months in the United States and Canada. Our prime rate now is holding at about 12 per cent.

One talks to people in the automobile industry who are selling cars. When interest rates on a personal loan go up to around 15 per cent, the buyers start to get very itchy and wonder what is going to happen. With mortgage rates going up, they become afraid.

We are going to have to make sure that youth 17 to 24 years of age are put to work in the next six months, and not have it go on two or three years.

I do not want to take any more time. I want to stress that this budget is a scam as far as I am concerned. When the government is going to collect \$1.64 billion more than it did last year it is not cutting taxes. It did not raise them much, but it is going to collect them through the ad valorem system. I want to repeat again, I think that is the most unfair form of taxation in the country. The members elected here, whether they are on the opposition side or the government side, must be responsible for the money that is collected. They must be responsible to the people when they vote for or vote against that tax.

9 p.m.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) for his speech, which was concise and substantive.

When I was listening to the Treasurer on Tuesday, I thought of the problems I face in my riding, which is a small part of Ontario but, in a way, represents a microcosm of the province. I thought of the problems I deal with every day. These are the problems of people who are unemployed or older people who are in despair because they cannot find a job because of their age. They knock at every door and cannot find a job.

I was thinking of the senior citizens who cannot cope with the taxes they have to pay on their properties. They are put in a very tough situation because they can hardly survive on their meagre pensions. I was thinking of the working people who can hardly afford to send their children to day care centres. I was thinking of the injured workers who are receiving very inadequate pensions and of the hundreds of pensioners who have been receiving a cut in their guaranteed

annual income system payments in the last two months because of increases in the federal pension and in the federal guaranteed income supplement.

Will the Treasurer respond to the real needs of the people of my riding and of the people of Ontario? While the Treasurer was reading his budget, I thought he was doing an excellent operation in public relations. That was proved the same day and the next day—not any more today and quite possibly even less today—by the reaction of the press, which was impressed by his incredible barrage of new acronyms, new names, new programs and the announcement of new funds that have been provided for the next century.

As far as my constituents and the other constituents who are in the same predicament are concerned, they are worth nothing. The Treasurer, as I have said before, has done a great PR operation. He said, "I have not increased the taxes for the people of Ontario," and everybody is supposed to be happy about that.

There is only a minor item, the increase in the Ontario health insurance plan premiums. The Treasurer informed us that is unfortunate, but it affects only a small part of the population. It does not affect the majority of the people in Ontario, especially the working people whose premiums are paid by the employers. He forgot to tell us they are paid by the employers, but they are part of the package employees negotiate with employers, so if the employers pay the premiums, the workers get less money in their wages.

With respect to property taxes, the Treasurer tried to be tough with the municipalities and the boards of education. He told them they had to restrain themselves. Restraint is the magical word. It is a word that has some appeal. When we are not affected directly, we think somebody else is abusing the system; so the government is on the right track when it says people should restrain themselves and not ask for too much. It says, "You should work, but your wages should not increase that much."

When we look at the budget we see that while inflation is predicted at 5.3 per cent for the current year, grants to the municipalities will be 5.2 per cent, a little bit less than the rate of inflation. The school boards will receive 4.5 per cent, almost one per cent less than inflation. For simple-minded people like myself and many people who do not understand statistics and the complex, slick mathematics of the Treasurer, if inflation goes up five per cent and we receive four per cent, this means that next year we will

not be able to provide the same services unless we raise the property taxes.

During the next fiscal year the boards of education of Ontario will be put in the very tough situation where they will have to raise property taxes. We know property taxes are unfair. We know the people who can least afford it are those who are penalized more. I will come to this later on.

All they can do is cut the services. Experience tells us when boards of education have to cut services, they do not cut the core services. They cut what are considered to be marginal services. What are the marginal services? They are those services rendered to the minority groups—English as a second language and heritage language teaching of a third language. In other words, they are the services serving the most vulnerable part of our community or our society.

With this budget the Treasurer is telling the people of Ontario, though not in an open way, "From now on, if you want to have the same services, you have to ask the people with low and average incomes to pay more property taxes or you have to penalize those marginal groups that do not represent the mainstream of the society in Ontario."

In the grant transfers we know there will be an increase of only 4.5 per cent for boards of education. For transit, it will be 2.9 per cent. For recreation, there is a decrease of 27 per cent; yet at the same time the government is telling us it is increasing funds to promote tourism in Ontario. I do not understand how this can be done because we all know that in a modern, capitalist society such as this if one does not make investments there can be no returns.

However, the Treasurer has performed a miracle in this budget. By decreasing investments in the recreation field, he tells us he will increase tourist activities and therefore employment in the province.

The same applies to senior citizens. Mr. Deputy Speaker, because you were elected the same year as I was, you will remember that from 1975 to 1977 we in the New Democratic Party fought a very tough battle. We said the property tax system as it existed in Ontario was not only inequitable but was also unfair, especially for those people who could least afford it. We brought the example of senior citizens who were asked to pay a big portion of their property taxes in order to finance the education system.

9:10 p.m.

In the city of North York which I represent, 55 per cent of the property tax bill goes towards

education expenses. We said it was inequitable. In 1967 the Ontario committee on taxation recommended that the system was unworkable because it had no relation whatsoever to the incomes of people who lived in houses and was not even related to the services provided.

More than 100 years ago the basis for property tax was that municipalities were providing services to citizens and boards of education were providing a service to the students; therefore, those who owned houses, those who were well-off in society, should pay for those services.

The Smith commission recommended in 1967, and unfortunately that was 17 years ago, that it was no longer applicable because in our modern society there is not a direct correlation between the service provided and the fee paid for that service. Therefore, he recommended we should find a more flexible system by which people should pay according to their ability to pay. He meant not only individuals but also corporations.

Ontario was a rural society 100 years ago. Today it is a large, industrialized society. The production of goods and the production of wealth has changed dramatically.

From 1975 to 1977 we fought that battle. We said it was inequitable that the government would ask senior citizens with a very meagre pension to pay for a service they did not even receive. These people receive pensions which are inadequate and below the poverty line by any standard—by the social planning board standard, by the Statistics Canada standard, even by the provincial government standard. We felt it was inequitable that those people should pay for a service they did not even receive.

The Tories responded in the way they traditionally respond. They introduced the property tax credit for senior citizens. At that time they allocated \$500 for homeowners and up to \$400 for tenants. Since 1980 there has been no increase whatsoever in that grant, which means the people who were receiving \$500 in 1980 are now receiving much less, if we consider that the inflation factor intervened in the meantime.

How does the Treasurer respond to that situation? With nothing. He does not change that system at all. In fact, in 1984 senior citizens in Ontario will receive exactly the same amount they received five years ago, which means they are paying much more at a time when their pensions have not increased substantially.

I am not saying this as a member of the opposition or as a member of this party. Just a few weeks before announcing the budget, the Treasurer said we have to look at the pension

situation because the system, as it is now, is unworkable and is inequitable because it is unbalanced and there are many people who are not receiving the pension they deserve.

The other problem is the problem of the unemployed. There are many people who are unemployed who, I think if we operate under this budget perspective, will find it very hard to find a job in the near future. The reason is that the Treasurer, despite the glossy budget that was presented to us and despite all the acronyms—and I think I counted 10, and that was only for the youth programs—comes to a very grim conclusion.

He says unemployment will be falling, but at the end of 1984 unemployment on the average will be 9.1 per cent, which is exactly the unemployment we have today. In effect, this means that people who are unemployed today will be very lucky if they can find a job in the next 12 months. Why? Because the Treasurer is condemning them to that situation and because he is not providing any tool in order to solve this very serious problem.

When we in Ontario read the statistics, we find they are probably not very impressive. Whether it is two per cent, three per cent, four per cent or 30 per cent does not mean much; but in human terms we are talking about employees of plants that are shutting down and will never be reopened.

I can give an example that was raised only two days ago by my leader. CCM went into bankruptcy in 1982. That company will no longer operate in Ontario; so for those workers there is no prospect of being employed in the same industry any longer. Camco, a company that operated in Ontario for 30 or 40 years, has been shut down because of the organizational rationalization, as they say, of the international operation of CGE. That plant will not reopen again in western Ontario.

Statistics do not tell the whole truth. Just last night a couple in their early 50s came into my office. They told me they had worked for 24 years at Camco. Last year when the multinational decided to rationalize its operations in Canada and transfer the operation to Hamilton, they were offered an option: go to Hamilton or quit. Since neither husband nor wife is a driver and since they found it quite awkward to go to Hamilton, they decided to stay. "We worked so many years with the company. It is probably time to stay in Toronto and find another job," they said. They now regret this decision.

After one year and three months they have not been able to find any job at all. They told me, and I quote them correctly: "We have been there more than 20 years. We did not know what the world outside was. Now we are knocking on doors. They look at us and some of them do not say anything, but others tell us we are too old and there are no jobs for us."

They showed me their savings account, and they have just a little bit over \$26,000. They told me: "We have worked all our lives and this is all our savings. When they are finished, what will happen to us?"

How does the Treasurer respond to them? Just nothing, zero. He tells them that unemployment is 9.1 per cent on May 16, 1984. The average for 1984 will be 9.1 per cent, which means they will be in exactly the same predicament.

9:20 p.m.

This is not the only situation I can speak of. I can tell members of hundreds of cases of immigrants who have lived all their lives in Canada working in the construction industry who now find they cannot get a job. There were two people sitting in the gallery this afternoon. I would have been happy if they had been here tonight. They have been unemployed for more than two years and no longer have unemployment insurance benefits. They refuse to go on welfare because of their pride. For them it is a tragedy. What does the Treasurer tell them? He tells them unemployment in Ontario will be 9.1 per cent for the whole year, which means there will be no prospects of their getting jobs.

If we look at the rosy prospects the Treasurer projects in his budget about the construction of houses, he tells us that while in 1983 we had 54,900 houses started, in 1984 we will have 58,000 houses started. Even if we take this figure for what it is, we know very well that unemployment in the construction industry is extremely high right now, and we will not solve the problem of unemployment in the construction industry with 3,100 more housing starts. If we go to any of the hiring halls in Metropolitan Toronto, or anywhere else in Ontario where there are even worse situations, we will see how many people are unemployed and on waiting lists with no prospect of finding jobs in the foreseeable future.

What does the Treasurer tell these people? He tells them there will be an increase of 3,100 houses in 1984. How long does it take to build 3,100 houses? That is just a couple of subdivisions; it is peanuts. It does not take into account a very important fact that this government supinely accepts.

In recent weeks, probably after the budget had already been printed, there has been a very fundamental change in one factor that has a very great influence on the housing industry: the increase in interest rates and the increase in mortgage rates that has followed. In the last two or three weeks, we have seen an increase in mortgages. The opinion of all the experts tells us not only that there will not be an increase but also that there will be a decrease in housing starts in the next month. The Treasurer does not respond to that problem either.

As I said before, I do not know which PR firm he hired to write the budget and to create acronyms, but he tells us the government has finally come to the conclusion that it has to get involved in research and enterprise. I thought the expression traditionally used was research and development.

In an effort to create a new illusion, the government tells us we have to talk about research and enterprise now. What does the government tell us? For the next year, it will spend something like \$10 million, and \$30 million in three years, hoping the private sector will come in, co-operate with the government, help in the new university research and take advantage of the new research incentive fund.

I find this to be quite ludicrous. We have thousands of people unemployed. We have young people who cannot find jobs. The government promises them it will create programs in the future to face that problem. We know we have people coming out of our universities who will not be able to find jobs because there are no research jobs in our industry; that is not because of conditions that are just temporary but because of the structure of our industry.

We in the New Democratic Party have been saying repeatedly, year after year, that we will not have research and development in the traditional industries because we have a branch-plant economy that does not require research and development in Canada.

Everybody understands, even the kids understand, that if you are an international or multinational corporation, you do your research and development where you are located. When you use the products of your research and development in the branches and you bring back the profits and revenues, then you will also bring back the part that relates to research and development.

I think the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Trudeau, even though he was one of the persons

most responsible for how the auto pact evolved, I want to tell the member for Brant etc.—I will not say all the other names—said that in 1980 we paid \$360 million to the automobile industry in the United States in terms of research and development for what was used in Canada in designing and applied research. Therefore, since we have a branch-plant economy, we do not have research in Canada.

When we went there last winter, the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) showed us something with great pride. We actually met some of the people who at four o'clock in the morning, at 48 degrees below zero, were trying the new General Motors engines in Kapuskasing. That is about all that goes on in research in Canada. There is a building in Kapuskasing with 40 people who try engines when the temperature goes to 40 degrees below zero.

There is no research and development. Therefore, for the 156,000 young people who come out of university, there is little chance that they can get jobs in research even though they have been trained for that at university. For the government to tell us it will allocate \$10 million for three years, and that will help to solve the problem of research and development in Ontario—or research and enterprise, as the Treasurer says—is absolutely ludicrous.

9:30 p.m.

If we had a press gallery that was more analytical, and I do not want to be nasty to them, its members would say this is absolute drivel. As I said before, the Treasurer in his budget does not respond to any of the very serious and basic problems we have in our province. He does not say anything about the mining or forest industries, where we have very serious problems.

The Treasurer relies very heavily on agreements with the federal government. When the election comes, the government will tell us it is the federal government's fault that the forest industry is going down the drain, but it does not do anything about it. It does nothing about the mining industry, and the resource industry in general, even though everybody understands it is a depleting commodity.

If we do not process our resources in Ontario, a time will come when they will be scarce. We are already facing a very serious situation in the nickel industry. There will be other places in the world where it will be cheaper to extract minerals and we will be left with nothing.

In the case of Sudbury, employment opportunities are shrinking year after year. We hear of thousands of people who have exhausted their

unemployment benefits. Since Sudbury can be considered a company town for all purposes, there are no other prospects for employment. Thousands of people will be left without help and without the possibility of being re-employed.

What does the budget do for those people? It does absolutely nothing. The Treasurer tells us he will set up some sort of new organization, new agency, new test company, some sort of non-profit organization, but with regard to money allocated to face those problems, there is absolutely nothing.

The government spends a lot of money in advertising. I was not surprised at all yesterday when I was reading the *Globe and Mail*, the very day after the budget, to see a very big ad which said the government will exempt home owners from any increase in taxable assessment if they undertake renovations and additions where there are senior citizens.

I thought perhaps I was naïve. Perhaps many people who are not affected will say the government is doing a good thing. I do not know how much it will cost, even though we know last year the government spent more than \$27 million for advertising. Many people think perhaps the government is doing the right thing. But what is the government doing?

The government is saying that if home owners renovate a house in which senior citizens reside, they will not have their assessment increased. That speaks to the problem I have been talking about before; this government is talking in cosmetics. It is talking about words, but it does not face the real problem.

The real problem in property taxes is that the assessment system is wrong. The government does not say it will correct that problem; it says it will not increase the assessment. There are many countries in the world—and I can give the members a whole list of countries—where not only do they not increase the assessment if a home owner undertakes renovations, but also he is exempted from paying taxes because he contributes to the heritage and the wealth of the country.

The government of Ontario believes that by giving that small exemption, which in dollar terms is quite negligible, it is doing the senior citizens a great favour. That is not so. I suspect the government is actually spending more money on its advertising campaign than the senior citizens will save in terms of exemption from increased assessment.

The Treasurer is convinced he can get away with anything. This is proven by the fact that

there is a number of ministries whose allocations have been reduced. Later I will talk briefly about the Ministry of Energy, for which I am the critic.

I will mention the Ministry of Northern Affairs, which was also mentioned today by my leader. Its allocation is down by \$21 million from 1982-83. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation budget is down by 9.2 per cent from last year. The Ministry of Environment spending is down by \$19 million, or 5.8 per cent. The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations budget is down by 15 per cent and so forth.

While the ministries' budgets are down, there is one item that is constantly increasing: the province's advertising budget. It has gone from \$2.6 million in 1974 to \$27 million in 1983. In 1974, Ontario ranked 36th among all advertisers in Canada; it was sixth in 1983. If we continue this pace, we will soon be second after the federal government.

From 1974 to 1983, the increase in the advertising budget was \$24,542,808. This means an increase of 933 per cent, while the inflation rate during the same period was 122 per cent. I do not want to tell the members any more because it is repetitive and because we have said this many times, but whenever we ask for any increase in social benefits or an increase in benefits to injured workers, the government is there to tell us that we must restrain ourselves, that it is impossible to have increases that match inflation because there is not enough money and because we are going through hard times. When we come to government advertising there is no restraint at all: 933 per cent in nine years.

If we had a little more critical press gallery and if we did not have a press gallery made up of people who are waiting for government jobs, perhaps the people of Ontario would have been informed at this time.

9:40 p.m.

The three assumptions upon which the government based its budget, that it is an economic transformation budget, a budget without a deficit and a budget without substantive tax increases, are not true even from the government's perspective.

As I said before, there has been an increase in the OHIP premium, but there have also been hidden tax increases in the tobacco, gasoline and motor vehicle fuel taxes. We will pay \$44 million in gasoline taxes, \$41 million in tobacco taxes and \$60 million in motor vehicle taxes.

What is more offensive is that while the government is pretending to put the lid on municipal and board of education expenses, it is

forcing them to increase property taxes, which is the most inequitable form of taxation.

Despite the fact the government is telling us the activity of the government will not be reduced, we have a reduction in expenses for many ministries. We do not know at this time, and this is the important thing, in which areas those cuts will take effect. We do not know if they will take effect in the areas of policy, research and development, social development or personnel, although the government boasts it can now do a better job with nine civil servants or 1,000 citizens than it did with 11 a few years ago.

In the Ministry of Energy, for which I am the critic, the government is actually proposing a cut from \$119 million in 1983-84 to \$116 million in 1984-85. This seems to be a minor cut of only \$3 million but the areas that seemed to suffer in past cuts were alternative and renewable energy projects and energy conservation. These areas were given only \$41.59 million in 1983-84, down from \$54.7 million in 1982-83. This is a \$12.8-million decrease, or a 23 per cent decrease in funding.

For many people perhaps this does not mean much, but if we look at the role of this ministry, and I am glad the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) is present at this point, we will see the ministry has only one role and that is to involve itself in the area of renewable energy and conservation. As far as the production of energy is concerned, we know the minister and the ministry, and I do not think it is his fault, are totally powerless because the czar is Ontario Hydro.

In an Ontario Hydro publication—

Mr. Piché: How do you spell "Hydro"?

Mr. Di Santo: I am surprised the member for Cochrane North would ask that question because we know what spelling mistakes he made just recently. I will not comment on them.

Mr. Nixon: I think we had better have a little more detail about this.

Mr. Piché: The only mistake I made was to say Bob is going to Ottawa on the 14th.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Gillies): Order. The member for Downsview has the floor.

Mr. Nixon: I want to know what spelling mistakes the member made.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Please ignore the interjections and continue.

Mr. Di Santo: I know the member for Cochrane North is interested in energy. For almost three decades of his life, his big project

was to reoperate the Smoky Line Train in order to promote tourism in northern Ontario. The government has never given him the funds; not even the Treasurer in this budget. This was his big electoral promise, "I will give you the Smoky Line Train," and he explained to me all the things about the Smoky Line Train.

Mr. Nixon: He messed up his career when he left the Liberal Party. His father will never forgive him.

Mr. Piché: That is right. I was going to support Chrétien in Ottawa.

Mr. Mancini: Tell us about the Smoky Line Train.

Mr. Di Santo: The member for Cochrane North once talked to us about the Smoky Line Train. I can yield to him if he wants.

In the fall 1983 issue of Canadian Public Administration, there is an article by L. Graham Smith. He said:

"In 1981, the Ministry of Energy's total staff was 126, organized to deliver three main programs: conservation and renewable energy (CARE)—Tory acronyms are fantastic—conventional energy and strategic planning and analysis. Electrical power is a component of the conventional energy program. Budget figures contained in the ministry's 1981 annual report revealed that the conventional energy program received under seven per cent of the ministry's annual budget"—this is also true for the following year—"compared to the nearly 70 per cent or \$23.4 million spent annually on the CARE program.

"Clearly, the major focus of the Ministry of Energy is conservation and the development of renewable energy resources. By comparison, minimal emphasis is placed upon electric power planning and respondents to this study indicated that the minister's staff 'in essence, leave Ontario Hydro untouched.' With respect to electric power planning, the ministry's role can be characterized as one of monitoring Ontario Hydro's actions and, in the words of one respondent, 'attempting to influence not what they do, but how they go about it.'"

In other words, 70 per cent of the budget is spent on conservation and renewable energy. With this budget, the Treasurer is reducing the very function of the Ministry of Energy, which is the only function the ministry performs, by \$12.8 million or 23 per cent. For anything else, for the production of energy, for what is called strategic planning and analysis, for the production of conventional and nuclear energy, the ministry has no role at all.

9:50 p.m.

We know very well that in 1984 Ontario Hydro will have a net requirement of \$2.4 billion, which means a sixth of the total budget of the province. The Treasurer has nothing to say about it, and the Minister of Energy has nothing to say about it. Probably he would like to say something about it.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Oh no, that is not true.

Mr. Wildman: You would not like to say anything about it?

Mr. Di Santo: Of course he would, but how could he? The government is totally subservient to the options that Ontario Hydro has set for itself and the government is not prepared to do anything about them.

Mr. Wildman: You are just a minion of Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Di Santo: Yes. Even worse than that.

The government tells the boards of education, "We will give you a 4.5 per cent increase in 1984." It tells the municipalities, "We will give you a 5.2 per cent increase in 1984." He is unable to say anything to Hydro; he is unable to tell Hydro that if it wants to pursue conservation, it has to change its approach totally. We know very well—everyone knows—that Hydro is unable to conserve at this point because there is a surplus and that is why it is promoting energy sales.

How much do members think Hydro is spending for its advertising budget? Just \$3.4 million, which is exactly \$400,000 more than the Treasurer took out of that ministry. That tells members what a pitiful situation we are in.

There is no economic planning in the province. There is a situation in which the government is a captive of this monster that is Ontario Hydro, and the government does not respond to economic or social problems. I did not mention the social housing problem; I did not mention the problem of day care centres.

I heard the Treasurer boasting on one of the radio stations that he is human, that he has a heart, because he is creating 1,500 day care places in Ontario. I would like to tell the Treasurer, without using statistics—because for me statistics do not mean very much—to come any morning of the week along Keele Street anywhere from Lakeshore to Steeles, stop at every bus stop and see how many mothers are carrying their children at five o'clock or six o'clock in the morning to their relatives or to a family or to an older woman because no day care centres are available.

I would like to tell the Treasurer to come into my riding of Downsview and see how many

single mothers cannot go to work and are blamed for being on welfare because they cannot afford a day care centre and there are no subsidized day care centres. I would like to ask the Treasurer to come into my riding so he understands that 1,500 spaces are pitiful, are peanuts, for the needs of Ontario.

As far as subsidized housing is concerned, the Treasurer should look at the figures on the waiting lists just in Metropolitan Toronto and he will realize how many people are in the most intolerable situation.

I received a phone call today from a single mother who is living with her uncle and two children in one bedroom. For that person there is no prospect whatsoever to get shelter in the foreseeable future because the Treasurer has not allocated any money at all. Since 1975, not one new shelter has been built in Metropolitan Toronto for people who need it.

I think the government should have looked around for alternative avenues. Ontario Housing is not the only acceptable model. There are other solutions that have been adopted in other countries. But this government refuses to engage in that field even though the need is enormous.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying this budget will probably last only the space of a morning. In a few days nobody will remember what the Treasurer announced in this House. I suppose there will be an incredible barrage of advertising all over the province. We will have ads on television, radio and in the newspapers, but there will be nothing of substance.

At the end of the year, the unemployment rate will be 9.1 per cent, according to the Treasurer's figures. That is assuming domestic activity increases by 4.7 per cent and personal income increases 8.9 per cent. If that does not happen because of the economic situation that is evolving at this time, we will have a much more serious situation. Employment will be much higher and many of the social problems will be more serious than they are now. This operation will end up as a tragic joke the Treasurer has perpetrated on the people of Ontario.

I know the government thinks it can get away with anything in Ontario because it thinks there is no reaction out there. It thinks the people will absorb and accept everything. But I think that is not so, because some situations are becoming intolerable. The employment situation is not the temporary type of situation it used to be; the type that would be overcome when the economic cycle changed.

Now we have very serious structural problems. There are people who will be unemployed and will be very angry. They will not forget what this Treasurer has done to them.

There are problems with pensioners who are faced with increasing property taxes each year. In North York this year they have increased by \$100 to \$110. They cannot afford to keep their houses. For them it is not a temporary problem, but a transient situation. It is a permanent situation that will affect them all their lives.

There are young people who are unable to find a job and who will not be able to find a job in the foreseeable future if the Treasurer's predictions do not come true. For those people this budget is a hoax. For those reasons we will vote against it. We hope the people of Ontario will understand exactly what a con operation the Treasurer has done on all of us.

10 p.m.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I commend the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) on his contribution to the debate this evening.

I want to express my gratitude to you, Mr. Speaker, for granting me the privilege to speak at this time, a time when my colleagues and I are anxious to commend the Treasurer on his first budget, a budget that the Premier (Mr. Davis) has called creative and responsible, one that has obviously stumped the opposition.

It will be a benchmark for all Treasurers and Finance ministers in these difficult times. The Treasurer has done what the pundits said was impossible. He has provided the blueprint for a significant reduction of the deficit without increasing taxes, and he has managed to do that while adhering to the government's commitment to restraint. That is quite a feat.

Significant also is the manner in which his budget addresses the many other areas of concern, especially those of jobs, youth, seniors, businesses big and small, and agriculture.

The budget clearly demonstrates the ability of this government to deal in a comprehensive and realistic manner with the challenges facing a society undergoing fundamental and far-reaching economic and social transformation. Unlike the prophets of doom and gloom assembled on the other side of this House, this government has proven itself capable of sound and prudent management designed to continue Ontario's responsible economic tradition.

While I join my colleagues in praising this new flat-line approach in dealing with today's difficult economy, I also note and support the

Treasurer's optimistic view of the future of this province over the short as well as the long term.

Coming from an area that has considerable dependence on the tourist industry, I was pleased to learn of the efforts and changes the Treasurer has proposed to aid that hardpressed section of the economy. In addition to the accommodation rebate for out-of-province visitors, incentive is provided for employment for young people in this industry. Up to 25,000 jobs are seen as the potential of this aid program that will provide \$100 per week towards their salaries.

While this form of assistance is wonderful in itself, may I humbly suggest it may not be enough. Despite the planned visits of the Queen and the Pope, the outlook for tourism is not bright. In my area in eastern Ontario, where we have three international bridges and are most cognizant of the paucity of US visitors, I am told it is the Canadian traffic going to and from the United States that keeps the bridges as busy as they are.

Mr. Haggerty: They are going over to buy cheap gas.

Mr. Nixon: They need a lot more French-speaking customs people there.

Mr. Haggerty: Even turkeys are cheaper over there.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Runciman: The honourable member is quite correct. Normally, it is prices that attract the US visitor to Canada. The cost of a visit to Canada, despite the value of the dollar, no longer offers an incentive for the millions of average working Americans who used to come here annually. Involved is the cost of accommodation, meals, liquor and gasoline, to name a few.

The budget has provided the financial aid to create jobs and encourage tourists in so far as accommodation is concerned. We must await the results of these welcome incentives and be prepared to expand the program to include tax reductions if necessary to make a visit here more attractive to that great majority of Americans who take their holidays by car.

We have 70 million Americans within a hoot and a holler of Brockville and the big question is, how do we get them to come back in the numbers in which they used to come? I suggest the answer can be found in northern New York, where many Canadians go on visits simply because it costs less despite our devalued dollar. We have to help our tourist industry become more competitive.

It is my privilege to introduce into the House some of the matters and concerns which affect

the lives of the people in Leeds county. I believe my constituency occupies a central place in the development of this great province and, in fact, a central place in the development of our nation.

I am sure members are aware that the portion of Leeds county fronting on the St. Lawrence was one of the original eight townships established by Governor Haldimand following the American revolutionary war. Leeds county, along with its neighbours to the east, as well as Kingston, Prince Edward county and the Niagara area, formed the small seed from which this nation launched its expansion westward in the last century, which between 1867 and 1906 saw this province grow into its present shape.

I can say with some authority that my people, with the distinguished company I alluded to earlier, form a good portion of the spiritual heart not only of Ontario but also of Canada. Add to this the fact that Leeds county encompasses within its boundaries some of the most beautiful scenery on the continent and we have a tremendous potential.

I suggest that in this bicentennial year, the 200th anniversary of the arrival of settlers in Leeds county—

Mr. Nixon: I used to go down there looking for Liberal votes.

Mr. Piché: That would be good material for Chrétien, because he will need new material very shortly.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, that would have been a tough search, and I commend the honourable member for his efforts, although obviously they were in vain.

Mr. Kolyn: That is why he came back.

Mr. Runciman: I mentioned the bicentennial year. I am suggesting that this government review the potential which awaits our development in this area of the province.

The geography and history of Leeds indicate that perhaps one of the greatest assets we enjoy is our tourist industry. We appreciate the benefits which Providence has bestowed upon us in this area, but we must take these benefits and develop them to the fullest.

Currently our tourist industry suffers from a number of restrictions. First, let me say the industry itself is in a state of evolution. Historically, the tourist industry in Leeds, and I suspect throughout most of Ontario, was based on the sport of fishing. Thanks in great part to the prudent actions of this government in past years, policies executed by the Ministry of Natural

Resources, we still enjoy this option and bass, pike, muskie and pickerel are still there waiting for us. Whether the angler visits the St. Lawrence, the Rideau or many of the inland lakes, the fish are still rising.

The experience of our resort owners over the past couple of decades has indicated a significant change in the tourists. No longer does the typical tourist come to eastern Ontario in search of sport fishing; essentially he comes for entertainment. Fishing lodges must successfully complete the metamorphosis into tourist resorts, and it requires imagination, courage and the resources to complete the metamorphosis.

I suggest this government could take a leadership role in identifying the possible directions, providing advice, organizational leadership and resources.

In my view, the province could take greater advantage of one of the most advantageously situated tourist locales in the world, the strip of land extending from Brockville on the east to Kingston on the west, encompassing an area that is unequalled in its potential to attract and satisfy visitors. I suggest this recreational area extending from Brockville to Kingston be developed as an area and sold in this manner throughout the continent and abroad.

10:10 p.m.

Members of the House may recall that last year I released a report on the armaments industry in Ontario, prepared for me by the legislative library research staff. That report outlined in detail the extent of Ontario's involvement in Canada's defence production industry. The study also outlined a number of options on how Ontario could benefit from opportunities in this field, thereby creating many new jobs for the province.

Although I neither recommended nor endorsed in any way any of those options, they were very quickly designated by many in the media as my proposals. The New Democratic Party was quick to label me as a warmonger, among other things, especially that champion of sincerity, the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston). Of course, that member was also quick to add that it is quite all right for three industries in his riding to produce defence-related materials. There is nothing hypocritical about that, is there?

Then, a week after I was roundly condemned by the third party, guess which party introduced a resolution calling on the federal government to give a certain riding more defence equipment business? That is right, the New Democratic Party and the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen). There is no hypocrisy in that party.

Since I began looking into the defence production industry well over a year ago, the one thing I have run into at every turn is hypocrisy. The third party's position on my study versus their actions in encouraging such industries for their own ridings is just one example, a case in point. When I released my report last year, I also made a recommendation that was either ignored or conveniently overlooked by the instant critics. The report clearly spelled out the significant extent of defence production currently carried out in Ontario—246 companies with some 50,000 Ontarians toiling in the industry, ranging from tires for armoured personnel carriers to the guidance system for cruise missiles.

What I suggested was that we attempt to get a handle on this industry by establishing a policy for defence production in Ontario, a policy that would spell out what types of production we would like to see take place in this province and detailing ways and means of assisting the industry to develop acceptable product lines and to exploit acceptable domestic and foreign markets.

The policy should also clearly spell out the kinds of things we do not want to see Ontario associated with. At present we do not appear to have any hard and fast policy in this area; instead we seem to want to look the other way and pretend the industry is not there. As a result, we are undoubtedly missing the boat with respect to opportunities to produce products and exploit markets that would be overwhelmingly acceptable to the vast majority of Ontarians and would create thousands of new jobs.

By ignoring reality, we are at present encouraging, through silence if in no other way, the production of products that many would find offensive. I say it is time to come out of the closet, throw away the veil of hypocrisy, determine what is right and what is wrong for this province with regard to defence production and then encourage and promote what is right and discourage what is wrong.

To move on to another subject, the petrochemical industry is important to Ontario, as it is to my area. Thankfully, in the past few weeks relief has come in the form of a lowering of the price of gas used to manufacture many types of chemicals. Canada now exports more chemicals than it imports, a dramatic reversal accomplished in just 10 years.

The problem is that the producers' profits plunged from \$426 million in 1980 to losses of \$129 million by 1982. During the past two years I have been able to add my small voice in an

attempt to make the plight of the industry known to government and to suggest a remedy, the lowering of the price. The lower price for gas feedstocks announced recently augurs well for the petrochemical industry, an industry that now accounts for 60,000 jobs. I want to compliment the Minister of Energy for his efforts on their behalf.

As the members may know, the agriculture industry has historically been a mainstay in Leeds. It goes without saying that agriculture has always been and will continue to remain a major force in Ontario's economy. In the recent past this government has recognized the hard times faced by farmers. We know farmers in this province have been caught between rising interest rates and increasing inflation, yet stable if not declining prices for farm commodities.

During the hard international recession from which Ontario has just emerged, thankfully not too scathed, the government introduced programs designed to assist small independent farmers, programs such as the farm adjustment assistance and the beginning farmer assistance programs. These programs reflect this Progressive Conservative government's concern about such key traditional sectors as agriculture. More important, this budget reflects the government's continued commitment to agriculture.

As my colleague the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) mentioned earlier today, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has received the largest percentage increase of any ministry in this government. It will receive a budget increase of 16.3 per cent for this fiscal year. This funding will go to enrich and initiate agricultural programs designed to assist farmers in this challenging period of transition.

While the farming community is steeped in the tradition of commitment to hard work on the land, it must also keep up with the massive agricultural advances in this province and in this country. It is only by keeping up with modern technology that we will be able to maintain our place at the forefront of the world's agricultural industry.

I do have one concern related to agriculture that I would like to relate to the House at this time. In the past few years Ontario has come to know a problem that results in confrontations unknown in the days of our fathers and grandfathers on the farm. It has to do with drainage ditches. We now see people virtually up in arms as a result of policies put in place in recent years, policies that were devised with the best intent but

policies that unfortunately have led to problems greater than they were devised to solve.

The problem arises from the institution of the system of petition drains. The nightmarish costs and delays that seem to bedevil petition drains are no more clearly exemplified than in some of the recent efforts in drainage projects in Leeds county.

One proposed drainage project, known as the Glen Elbe drain, has costs of \$86,000 accumulated against it in engineering fees alone. There has not been a shovel of dirt moved, and there is no indication of an early start, but the controversy surrounding it has been swirling for two years or more.

Because of what is happening in rural areas today, new drainage works or cleanouts are very difficult to initiate or execute, yet without proper drainage and soil pH, all further technology may be applied in vain to the most productive land.

Drainage is a long-term project and does not have the publicity value of some other programs. But all the other programs, perhaps with the exception of crop insurance, would be wasted without it. The government is always being lambasted for Band-Aid projects and not taking a long-term view. Nowhere else can governments and agriculture get a bigger, long-term boom for the buck, especially in eastern Ontario, than through proper drainage.

Currently, the ministry has no control over how a mutual agreement drain is constructed. I have been told, and frankly I believe it, that the ministry may think it is not financing mutual agreement drains when it actually is. Land owners mutually agree to make their drainage project into a petition drain, qualify for a grant, and if there is no opposition, they are home-free, they think.

One project I have heard about is an example of what I am getting at. In Escott township in Leeds county, the land owners got a \$1,200 quote for a ditch cleanout. They were persuaded to go the petition route. The engineering costs were \$2,000. They got a \$1,100 grant and had to pay \$2,200 instead of \$1,200. The government lost and the farmers lost. The same story has been and is being repeated all over the province.

The current hassle over drainage projects has almost put a stop to all efforts to clean out existing ditches or create new ones. The ministry needs to take a fresh approach to the program. I humbly suggest that an attempt be made to rekindle the ARDA spirit that awakened the drainage renaissance in the 1960s and 1970s and encourage farmers and land owners to work

together instead of fighting and tearing communities apart.

I have some proposals to offer with that in mind. I have in mind a proposal I made last year to give the province's one-third assistance grant to mutual agreement drains as well as petition drains. Petition drains, as I suspect all rural members know, invite litigation, discord and fighting involving land owners, township councils and environmentalists.

Petition drains also require the services of engineers, which ups the costs 10 per cent to 15 per cent, and contractors bid higher when work is done by tender. If the ditch project fails, the petitioners may be saddled with engineering costs and no ditch.

In one instance in my area, land owners have been trying for five years to get a petition drainage project off the ground. They have been held up by one man and they now face costs of \$30,000, and no ditch. Where does that leave the farmer caught in such a squeeze?

I would like to suggest that the government make mutual agreement drains eligible for a one-third grant. While admitting that all drains cannot be handled by mutual agreement, a goodly number could be, and that in itself would be good for most farmers.

10:20 p.m.

A little more than a week ago Ontario Hydro announced its preferred power corridor route between Kingston and Ottawa. Much of the recommended corridor passes through my riding. Although I have had insufficient time to arrive at any conclusions as to the wisdom of the recommendation, I do want to offer some observations.

Hydro's selection of what turns out to be the shortest and least expensive alternative has understandably left many people wondering about the authenticity of the public participation process. Was it just a charade? I sincerely hope not, but I want to advise Hydro it is going to have a tough selling job in parts of my riding in its efforts to convince people it was not.

Perhaps the most controversial element of the corridor proposal is the necessity for a crossing of the Rideau Canal in the Jones Falls area. This is one of the most beautiful areas in the Rideau system, and I do not think I can overemphasize the importance to the Rideau as a tourist drawing card. Any Hydro corridor routing, in my view, should not detract from major tourist-attracting features of the area.

Parks Canada is on record in its opposition to a crossing at Jones Falls. I am pleased to see the

minister is here this evening, and I urge him to assess this proposal as it relates to Jones Falls and its impact on tourism, with a view to possibly intervening at the joint board hearing.

I have one final comment on this matter. Whatever route is finally adopted, I urge Hydro to give every consideration to providing job opportunities and economic benefits, albeit short-term, to the regions through which the corridor will travel. It was indicated to me last week this will not happen, and I urge Hydro to take another look at that.

Approximately two years ago, the Right Honourable Joe Clark made some proposals with respect to parliamentary reform, proposals which regrettably Mr. Clark and the federal PCs did not have the opportunity to implement. Those proposals could well apply to this House and this government and could provide a way, perhaps the only way, for individual private members, and consequently the public, to regain control of the public service, a control I believe is essential in a parliamentary democracy.

I do not intend to deal in depth with the reasons reform is needed. Suffice to say it boils down to the fact that, although we all wear the clothes of authority, only a handful of the members of this House have any real authority. Mr. Clark's basic proposal, one I strongly endorse for this assembly, was to limit radically the mandate and the control parties exercise over individual members of the House.

This would be accomplished by the government sitting down with the members shortly before a session begins or shortly after the throne speech has been delivered and saying: "Here are the measures that are of fundamental importance to the government. Here are the questions on which we will stand or fall. Here are the questions on which party lines will be enforced and the whips will be imposed." These questions should be in a minority. In other words, there should be a division of questions at the beginning of a session by a government into the fundamental questions of confidence on which its existence will depend and questions that can be addressed directly and independently by individual members of the House.

Mr. Clark indicated his faith in the collective judgement of the elected members of the House of Commons, and those members were allowed to express their judgements. I certainly have similar faith in members of this assembly. Adoption of this kind of measure would allow the House to work the way most people think it works. Matters that are not questions of govern-

ment confidence would stand or fall on their merits. Most members—and I emphasize most—were nominated and elected because they have demonstrated good judgement or good intellect, but the system, by and large, prevents them from applying their talents.

If Mr. Clark's suggestion were applied in this House, it would have a profound effect on the public service. Instead of having to persuade a minister of the merits of a proposal, public servants would have to convince a diverse range of individual interested members of the provincial parliament.

That would reduce dramatically the prospect of measures being adopted without scrutiny. It would require public servants to go well beyond their normal rounds of consultation. It would give them the benefit of the advice of intelligent members of this House who would bring to bear their own good judgement and the concerns of voters they visit every weekend. It is a proposal I commend enthusiastically to the government of this House.

In this response to the budget, it is perhaps appropriate that I touch upon the topic of productivity. While the headlines in one of today's local papers cited an optimistic economic forecast for Ontario for 1984, I would like to propose a number of options the government might consider—

Mr. Piché: It must have been the Globe and Mail. Who else?

Mr. Runciman: —as part of its overall strategy to maintain its economic leadership and increase industrial productivity in our province. I am referring, of course, to the topic of employee participation in profits, equity and decision-making, otherwise known as profit-sharing.

One of the greatest single challenges facing Ontario and Canada in general is finding the appropriate vehicle to realize a superior and continually rising level of productivity. Profit-sharing has the potential to become the best means for productivity improvement by involving employees more directly and responsibly in the activities of a company. Giving workers a share in profits, equity and decision-making can improve employer-employee relations and provide firms with an additional source of investment capital, and it could well lower production costs by reducing wastage, turnover and absenteeism.

In addition to improved productivity, profit-sharing can be a significant means of raising employee morale and would, I hope, lead to a lessening of the adversarial relationship between

management and labour. I personally favour profit-sharing plans that are voluntary and available to all employees.

Stock option plans are particularly attractive because they encourage long-term interest in the performance of the company. Stock option plans also create a much-needed source of equity capital and contribute in a participatory way to the health of the economy.

I must make it clear that I am not advocating profit-sharing as a replacement for trade unions or as a substitute for regularly negotiated wage increases. Stock option plans, for example, could be either part of a collective agreement or outside that agreement. Unions should, however, re-examine their traditional opposition to profit-sharing, and business leaders should be encouraged to increase employees' stakes in their companies.

As I see it, the provincial government's role in employee participation in profits, equity and decision-making should be one of leadership and encouragement through the tax system. This government could play a major role in promoting the concept and in educating interested groups and individuals about the features and benefits of profit-sharing schemes.

Moreover, I would like to see this government consult with the federal government, management, labour and other interested parties, such as the Profit Sharing Council of Canada and the

Business Council on National Issues, to determine how best to move in the direction of voluntary profit-sharing.

That concludes my remarks.

On motion by Mr. Runciman, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the business of the House for the remainder of this week and for next week is as follows:

Tomorrow morning we will continue the budget debate.

Monday, of course, is the holiday.

On Tuesday, May 22, we will continue the budget debate in the afternoon and the evening.

On Wednesday, May 23, the usual three committees may meet.

On Thursday, May 24, as we have already changed the order by motion, in the afternoon we will deal with the estimates of the Premier (Mr. Davis), and in the evening we will have ballot items in the names of the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri) and the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande).

On Friday, May 25, we will have second readings, and committee of the whole House if necessary, of Bills 54, 57, 67, 68 and 69.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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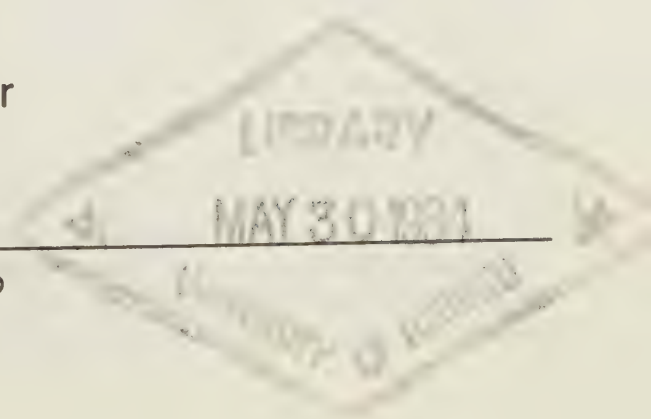
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Friday, May 18, 1984

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, May 18, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

DEATH OF GORDON SINCLAIR

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to Gordon Sinclair, a man whose long and distinguished career has made him a journalistic institution in our country. It was with personal sadness and a sense of loss that I received the news of his death last evening. I do not think any of the members will disagree when I say that our province and, indeed, Canada has lost one of this country's most prominent, best-known and well-respected journalists.

Those of us who regularly followed him, whether it was during his days at the Toronto Star or during his time with CFRB radio and Front Page Challenge, knew that Gordon could always be counted on to be controversial and colourful. While we could and on occasion did disagree with him, I think many of us also recognized that his studied irreverence masked a man of considerable compassion and understanding.

I will leave it to his many colleagues to chronicle Gordon's diverse contributions to his chosen field of journalism. Personally, I will miss the lively discussions we had on several occasions when I was a guest on CFRB's Let's Discuss It show. I often found his opinions provocative but also very perceptive. He was perhaps at his most perceptive when as a panellist on Front Page Challenge, as I recall, he was the only one who correctly guessed that the mystery guest that evening was the member for Brampton.

As I said to some members of the media last evening, the name Gordon Sinclair could become the classic definition of a very full life. To me Gordon Sinclair was not only a great Canadian; he was also a fair critic and a good friend, and he will be sadly missed. On behalf of the government of our province and the people of Ontario, may I offer my sincere condolences to his family and to his many friends.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I want to express our feelings of sadness on the news of the death of Gordon Sinclair. Most of us

who have been in politics a number of years find it hard to believe that his career was very full indeed and that he had earned a world reputation before we ever even came on the scene.

Along with the Premier (Mr. Davis), I have on many occasions been exposed to his wit and to his sometimes rather harsh opinions about things political. I was thinking while driving in today that perhaps if I had listened to his advice a little more carefully, we might have had some different results.

I can recall more than one occasion when he came up to what was in those days the rather famous press party that used to be held on the farm in South Dumfries. He always joined in the high-spirited levity in full measure. I have always enjoyed him as an entertainer; there is no doubt about that. Although our personal relationship faded a bit as his career continued to be upwardly mobile, right until the last, I have always enjoyed the feeling that I knew him personally and appreciated his wit and candour.

When one looks at what he had achieved as a person in his careers, internationally, in radio and as an author of magazine articles and of a number of books, he was always entertaining, cogent, cutting to the heart of the matter. His life was a full one and his death was quick. We admire his accomplishments. All of us in this House and this community will miss him.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, in different ways I think everyone in this House grew up with Gordon Sinclair. I can remember first meeting him almost 30 years ago when I was very small. He was a great friend of my uncle and of my uncle's grandmother, who was Scottish. They used to share many memories about Robert Burns and joke with each other.

I last saw him about a year ago when he gave me a very hard time indeed. I reminded him that his willingness to do the new and unexpected was reflected in the fact that he appeared on an interview with Stephen Lewis in the 1975 campaign in a free-time broadcast, and I said I was expecting him to continue his membership from 1975 onward. He was not that type of person.

He was somebody whose irreverence, feistiness, directness, tremendous good humour and

tremendous warmth everyone who heard him appreciated, whether or not they agreed with what he happened to be saying at any one time. At a time when so many people are conforming—so many people simply say things that are safe or they think will not offend—it is refreshing to reflect on the career of that remarkable man, Gordon Sinclair, who always called things as he saw them, who never held back in his views on matters political, on matters religious or on matters affecting people.

He was a marvellous communicator, a marvellous entertainer and a marvellous journalist. All of us in public life have lost a great deal. We have also, if I may say so, gained from having grown up with this wonderful Canadian and from having lived with his views, his feistiness, his humour and his directness. We shall miss him, but we shall also celebrate the wonderful life he lived.

On behalf of my party, I would simply like to pass on our very warmest wishes at this time to the Sinclair family, to Mrs. Sinclair and to Gordon's children, and to say we wish them well. We are thinking of you, Gordon, wherever you may happen to be at present.

10:10 a.m.

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks a number of articles have appeared in the media accusing our ministry of changing its policies and of reducing the level of availability of analytical, diagnostic and health services to our livestock industry. More recently, the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan), who I regret is not here this morning, posed a question concerning this subject. In my response to the question and in further questioning and responses, I attempted to clarify the issue.

I stated that ministry policies on this subject have not changed, levels of service to livestock producers had not been reduced and no change in policies or level of service is under consideration. It appears my responses were not fully understood, and thus today I want to set the record straight and present a definitive statement on this subject.

A major objective of my ministry is to ensure that the widest, most effective range of analytical, diagnostic and health services is available to our livestock producers. Such services have been and will continue to be available from a number of sources. Major sources include my ministry, universities and the private sector.

It is a policy of my ministry to avoid the duplication of services available from other sources. It is also our policy to encourage both universities and the private sector to provide services when they are clearly the best ones to do so. In administering these policies, the welfare of the livestock population and the wellbeing of the livestock producers are, of course, our prime considerations.

The analytical and diagnostic services of my ministry are delivered to the Ontario livestock producers primarily through one or more of our six veterinary services laboratories located throughout the province. In these laboratories are well-qualified professional and technical staff who use modern analytical and diagnostic equipment.

Analytical and diagnostic results from ministry laboratories are reported to both the livestock owner and to the veterinarian involved. The producer's veterinarian makes the final diagnosis, and it is the veterinarian who recommends treatment and disease control measures.

In late 1983 and early 1984, my ministry noted that private sector laboratories were making certain services available to veterinarians and to the livestock industry and doing this so competently and successfully that there was little reason for our ministry to continue to provide these same services.

As an example of this, let us look at autogenous bacterins used to stimulate immunity to a specific disease in a herd or a flock. To produce an autogenous bacterin, the bacteria causing the disease must be isolated in pure culture from infected animals in that herd or flock. Ultimately, these bacteria are inactivated by physical or chemical means. These inactivated bacteria will then no longer cause disease, but they will in some cases stimulate immunity to the disease.

Two private laboratories are now producing autogenous bacterins; so, to avoid duplication of services, it was decided that ministry laboratories which had been making limited numbers of autogenous bacterins would stop offering this service.

In February 1984, notice was given to all Ontario veterinarians that this service, equine pregnancy tests and wart vaccines would no longer be available from our ministry laboratories, but we would assist private laboratories in making bacterins—setting aside suitable tissues or swabs as part of a diagnostic workup on an individual case.

Since that time, one private lab has requested that we provide them with pure cultures of pathogenic bacteria from animals submitted to our laboratories. In most instances we have refused these requests on the advice of ministry lawyers. Among the reasons for not releasing pure cultures is concern about releasing infectious materials from our laboratories, and once relinquished, our inability to assure continued quality control of any product manufactured from them.

An example has been cited of losses suffered by an individual hog farmer, and the suggestion has been made that a change in government policy was partly the cause of these losses. In response, I would point out that haemophilous pneumonia, the disease involved in this instance, has been a serious disease in this province for a number of years; that it is extremely difficult to control; that control measures include improved management practices, improved ventilation, control of crowding and the judicious use of antibiotics, and that research and practical experience have shown the use of bacterins in the face of an outbreak of this disease has little effect in preventing losses.

In this case, the diagnosis was confirmed by our ministry's Huron Park laboratory in mid-February 1984. At that time, the producer's veterinarian requested that portions of lung be provided to a private laboratory so that a bacterin could be prepared. This was done at that time.

On April 9, 1984, the producer's veterinarian contacted Dr. Jim Henry, the director of veterinary laboratory services. He asked that cultures be released because the private laboratory had been unable to culture the bacteria necessary for the production of bacterin. The veterinarian involved was determined to use a bacterin in this case.

In view of the losses suffered by the farmer, Dr. Henry called the Huron Park laboratory and directed them to release the cultures. These were then picked up by the private laboratory the next day, April 10, 1984.

Other than these instances, we have had no requests for the release of cultures.

In summary, I once again state most emphatically that, first, we have not reduced the level of diagnostic services provided by our laboratories, nor do we intend to do so. Second, we are attempting to encourage privatization of non-diagnostic functions. Third, we will provide all assistance possible in cases of serious disease outbreak, as we have done in this case. Finally,

the overall level of service to livestock producers is being and will be maintained.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES BILL

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to bring to the House a bill entitled the Child and Family Services Act.

Mr. Foulds: I see the minister has his sweater back on.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What does the little man in the red shirt want to say?

Mr. Foulds: I said the minister has his sweater back on.

Hon. Mr. Drea: As the members know, this bill has been produced after one of the most intensive processes of consultation ever undertaken in this province. The effort and work invested by my ministry has been enormous.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The honourable members are interested in the statement. The minister will please proceed.

Hon. Mr. Drea: To refresh their memory, we set out in 1982 to consolidate and streamline 10 existing pieces of legislation dealing with services to children and families. I will not refer to those instruments in detail on this occasion. Suffice it to say that the new act was designed to touch the lives of children served by my ministry.

We then embarked on the mammoth task of consultation. A working paper was published in October 1982. In all, 15,000 copies in English, 1,500 in French and 10,000 bilingual summaries were distributed. No fewer than 150 meetings and community forums were held. Consultations with native people and other special client groups took place.

The consultation paper generated discussion, opinion, suggestions and some 350 briefs and letters. This feedback was painstakingly reviewed and analysed by ministry staff. All those groups and individuals—agencies, professionals, staffers and volunteers—who work with us in the interests of children and families were encouraged to scrutinize our proposals.

We listened. We paid attention to what the community had to say individually, in groups and as organizations. As a direct result of these representations, some of the recommendations in the paper were changed, others withdrawn and still others added.

Out of that comprehensive review came the draft legislation for the Child and Family

Services Act which I tabled, together with the background documents, in this House last December. The draft legislation was then subjected to a detailed, six-week study by the standing committee on social development.

Committee members listened to 45 oral presentations from groups and individuals and studied 74 written briefs. They also heard submissions by myself, my deputy minister and my staff. As a result of that diligent examination by the standing committee, further changes were made.

I would like to say a few words here about the route we followed in the preparation of this legislation. From the outset, my ministry has sought the frank and full consultation of all parties interested in this issue. We provided the standing committee not with a bill carved in stone—or even rapidly drying concrete—but with draft legislation still in its flexible, formative stages. We earnestly studied all the recommendations of the standing committee and incorporated many of them into the bill that is now before the House.

The driving force behind the deliberations of everyone involved in preparing this act—and it was heartening to see this—was the wellbeing of our children. The scrutiny of the proposed measures was carried out in a spirit of co-operation, and not of partisan competition, that reflected the importance of the legislation to children and families today and to future generations.

I believe the process of exhaustive consultation we undertook resulted in a bill that will crown Ontario's proud record in legislation to serve children and families. We have now a practical as well as a progressive consensus. We also have, in my opinion, a fine piece of legislation. It is with a sense of some urgency that I now look forward to its implementation.

10:20 a.m.

Historically, the protection and wellbeing of children has been of paramount concern to the government of Ontario. The bill now before the House will carry that tradition into the future and will serve children well in our changing, stressful times. I will not deal at length today with all the details of this legislation, but I would like to touch on a few highlights which will be of importance and interest to this House and our community.

The paramount purpose of this act, and I quote, will be "to ensure the best interests, protection and wellbeing of children." That principle is unwavering. Yet in our commitment

to helping children, we must never forget that a child's family is a child's whole world. The bill appreciates this. Wherever it is possible to do so without jeopardizing the safety of the child, the bill supports the autonomy and integrity of the family unit.

In response to a recommendation of the standing committee, the bill extends the right to children to seek counselling on their own behalf. I am sure the members will appreciate how sensitive this issue can be. While the bill will make it possible for a child to speak freely and confidentially to a caring professional adult, it will also require that the counsellor explain clearly to the child the wisdom and benefits of involving the parents in the counselling program.

Of course, the role of the counsellor is limited to providing advice, not treatment. When a child, for whatever reason, must be taken into protective care, certain rights and privileges must be maintained. These are defined and guaranteed by the legislation before this House.

The bill carefully stipulates the procedures that must be followed when children in care pose a threat to themselves or to other children. At the recommendation of the standing committee, provision has been made, for example, for the specific guidelines that must be followed leading up to the secure isolation of a traumatized child. It also strictly limits the amount of time for which a child may be isolated.

Another recommendation of the standing committee dealt with the issue of adoption disclosure. Essentially, the voluntary adoption disclosure principle will remain the same, which is to say that the identity of birth parents will normally be released only with the consent of all parties concerned: the adoptive parents, the birth parents and the adopted person.

There are times, however, when this may not be practical. Accordingly, the bill provides for the disclosure of information that may be essential to the health of the adopted person or his or her children. As well, the consent of an adoptive parent to disclosure will not be necessary if that person has become mentally incompetent or has died. This is only common sense, but these are the kinds of provisions that make the bill flexible and responsive to the needs of the people it serves.

I could cite to the members any number of sections that have been recommended or endorsed by the standing committee, by children's agencies, by professionals in the field of child care and by citizens at public forums.

Suffice it to say the bill covers a spectrum of children's services and provides for the establishment of highly qualified teams of professionals to tackle the problem of child abuse on a case-by-case basis; measures to encourage and stabilize long-term foster care relationships; the provision of services to children and families in the French language where appropriate; the greater involvement of native people in the provision of services to the children in their communities, and the protection and care of children throughout Ontario.

We have before us a legislative milestone, an accomplishment in which we can all take pride. We have here a single bill that encompasses the philosophy and commitment of this province to its children. This is streamlined, modern legislation that will clarify and guide the efforts of the dedicated people working on the front lines of children's care in Ontario.

This is a bill filled with good intentions—good intentions and nothing more until this House makes them a legislated reality. I sincerely request the House make every effort to pass this important bill before the summer recess. We have an act that is urgently needed in the field. It will make a brighter future for many of our children and will ensure a bright future for Ontario. It is a job well begun that we must now complete. It is a job we have undertaken together on behalf of the children of Ontario.

ORAL QUESTIONS

SOCIAL PRIORITIES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer about the social priorities in his budget. As he said, the budget is not just an economic document; it is also a social document.

Why is it that the Treasurer chose to proceed in baby steps in providing subsidized day care space? I am sure he is aware of the need. He knows the waiting list in Metropolitan Toronto is 1,300. In Ottawa-Carleton, we need a minimum of 608 spaces for children waiting for subsidies. In London, we need 80 and in Sault Ste. Marie, 80. The list goes on and on in virtually every community in this province. He has provided 1,500 spaces.

Why has the Treasurer chosen not to make that a greater priority in his budget?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the whole question of day care spaces has been given an extreme amount of attention by the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) as well as the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea).

It was decided to take what has been a rather unusual step in terms of budgets, which generally deal with the economic circumstances for the coming year and, for the first time in some time, we saw moneys applied to day care; a lot of money, \$5 million almost, for 1,500 spaces. There are not many people who would suggest that is not an extraordinary addition. It will not solve the problem entirely, but it is an important addition.

I would also remind the honourable member that important initiatives were taken under the Canada assistance plan programs. We will be providing special day care opportunities to a number of single mothers on welfare who will be getting additional day care opportunities and additional day care services provided to them through that program. That would be in addition to the 1,500 spaces we are providing.

Mr. Peterson: Let me ask the Treasurer for his explanation on another social priority, certainly in our view. That is—

The Deputy Speaker: Is this a new question?

Mr. Peterson: I was asking about social policy priorities. I am sure you remember, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to figure out how compassionate he really is.

Another area of great social need is the need for assisted housing in this province. I am sure the minister is aware of the figures of need and the waiting list for municipal nonprofit housing. In Peel, there are 3,000 on the list for Ontario Housing; in Toronto, 5,000 families; in Metropolitan Toronto, 3,000 seniors, and in Ottawa, 1,600 families and seniors. More than 30,000 families and individuals on waiting lists need assisted housing in this province.

The Treasurer knows that construction programs would be job-intensive and create jobs and go some way towards solving the unemployment problem. Why is it that he chose only to reannounce an old program of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett)?

We will have, on average, 640 units a year across the province for the next five years. It does not even go a tiny way towards addressing the real need. Why did he choose virtually to ignore that important area where government has to take the lead?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Obviously, I am not going to agree that providing 3,200 additional families with rent-geared-to-income units amounts to ignoring the problem.

Mr. Rae: Finish the sentence. It will be over five years.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The Treasurer is answering the question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The reason the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) has to take that approach is that, let us face it, he was planning to take an approach that said this budget raised taxes and—

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me finish the answer.

The Deputy Speaker: There is nothing out of order. The minister is answering the question.

Mr. Peterson: He is imputing motives. I thought that was not allowed in this House. He has drafted an answer to a question, and regardless of what the question is in this House, we hear the answer repeated time after time. He is launching a defence of his budget, which is his prerogative, but it is so feeble and so miserable. It is the same answer to every single question. I am asking him specific questions. Exercise your prerogative as the presiding officer—

The Deputy Speaker: This is not a point of privilege and the honourable member knows it. The minister can answer the question and is accountable for the answer. The minister can proceed.

10:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The reason the answers sound somewhat familiar is that the question the opposition is left with after this very good budget is, "Why did you not do more?" That is the traditional knee-jerk opposition approach. No matter what governments do, the members opposite will always say, "That is nice, but do more."

With regard to whether we should have gone further than this important addition of 3,200 units over five years, my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) and I have discussed various options for assisting that and other problems.

One of the important things we learned during the prebudget consultations was that the housing industry disagreed very fundamentally with the member's predictions with regard to housing starts for this coming year. The most negative and pessimistic prediction from the housing industry was that, instead of 58,000 units, we may end up with 54,000 units. But in essence they were saying to us, unusually, that they really did not need stimulation for housing construction this year to create jobs.

Mr. T. P. Reid: We are talking about socially assisted housing.

Mr. Wrye: Do you not even understand the difference?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, if the honourable member was paying attention, his leader said housing construction would also help to create jobs. The response was, of course, that the housing industry has indicated it will be creating a lot of jobs and it does not need stimulation to create employment in the housing sector.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer continues to put the flim back in flim-flam.

Is it not a fact that the Treasurer's miserly 640 units a year, as he says, are not new units at all, that in fact the 640 items will be subsidized spaces in existing apartments? Is it not a fact that there is not one new unit of affordable housing to be constructed out of the budget he announced earlier this week? Is it not a fact that no new housing is going to be built in this province as a result of the budget he announced on Tuesday?

Why does he not bring in a separate provincial housing supply program to build affordable housing to deal with the housing crisis in cities such as Toronto, Sudbury, Hamilton or Ottawa—in fact, all the major cities in this province that have a housing crisis?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, we decided that for the time being—that is, through this budget period—the most urgent priority if we were going to do anything in the housing area was twofold. The first was not to increase taxes, so as not to exacerbate a potential problem with respect to people being able to buy new homes, and not to borrow more money—which I might say, as the member's party has indicated, would only push up interest rates and be inflationary—but rather to continue the economic climate in which 58,000 new homes will be built and purchased this year.

Second, if we were going to do something in the housing area, my colleague and I determined it should be to ensure that housing that is available will indeed be used for rent-geared-to-income housing. I have listened to the honourable member's speeches on housing over the past time, and I have heard him say quite clearly one of the problems is that we are not taking up enough of the units under the Canada rental supply program of the federal government in order to provide rent-geared-to-income accommodation. Therefore, in response to those who have said we have to have more rent-geared-to-income housing, this was the decision we made

at this time and it is, for this period, eminently the right one.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Treasurer about one other aspect of the social policy enunciated in this budget. I raised this matter with his colleague the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mr. Dean) yesterday.

The Treasurer has suggested we always come and complain that he should have done more. In the case of the disabled in this province he did nothing. Can the Treasurer please tell this House why this government, along with the government of Canada, would see a need to provide more money for the single elderly and to bring them at the end of this year up to \$682 a month?

When the 55,600 single disabled of Ontario look for some assistance from this government to get them out of the abject poverty in which they live, in enunciating the social policies for the disabled of this province, why is there not a dime's worth of help other than the minor help that was promised in accommodation and a number of other matters? Why did he not act to redress that terrible wrong and put more money into the pockets of those who desperately need it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, let us be fair with the budget and the disabled. These are words the honourable member would not want to use since they cast away the important steps we have taken in areas such as attendant care for many disabled. These words cast that aside as if it were miserly, insignificant or minor. The member would want to reflect on those remarks and withdraw them.

Second, through the leadership provided by this government, there is now a review of the system of support for the disabled through the Canada pension plan system. This is the right approach since, as pointed out in our extensive paper on pensions in Canada, the disabled are in a position of getting assistance from a variety of unco-ordinated sources. In order to rationalize the system and be sure all disabled are getting an appropriate amount of assistance, a great deal of co-ordination is required.

In the meantime, this government, and only this government, has been saying we should not wait until that entire review is completed, but adjustments should be made immediately through the CPP to look after the disabled. That is a position we have put forward. It is eminently the right position, and we have been the leaders in Canada in suggesting that CPP changes be made to look after the disabled. That is eminently the right approach.

Mr. Peterson: They are the leaders in Canada in weaseling out of their responsibility. That is what they are the leader of in Canada. We were trying to get the measure of the compassion in the budget which they talk about but do not reveal.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The Leader of the Opposition with his second question.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Treasurer about the environmental programs as articulated in the budget. He will be aware this is the second year in a row there have been major cuts in environmental spending by this government, an indication it does not take that area very seriously or that the minister was not able to persuade the Treasurer it is an important area for leadership by the government.

Why has the government cut its commitment to spending in that area when the list of real and immediate needs in Ontario is virtually endless? I will give the Treasurer a list of those urgent and immediate needs if he would like to hear them. Why is the government cutting its environmental spending when it is job-intensive and helps solve problems that will have to be solved sooner or later? Why not solve them now rather than deferring these problems for some future group to pay for and solve?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I guess this will be about the seventh or eighth time this week the Conference Board of Canada and I have disappointed the member, but I am going to have to do it again. In terms of its actual operating moneys, the budget for the Ministry of the Environment will be increased by at least \$11 million this year. There will not be a decrease.

The reason the figures appear that way is because of a write-off which increased the figures by \$30 million on a one-time-only basis last year since we transferred assets, in most cases water treatment and waste control facilities, to municipalities. As we transfer those assets, they appear as a one-time-only expenditure, inflating last year's figure by \$30 million. The actual base of the Ministry of the Environment will show that, in order to deal with the priorities the Leader of the Opposition is talking about, there was no decrease but an \$11-million increase.

10:40 a.m.

Mr. Peterson: Here we have an admission from the Treasurer that figures lie. That is what he is telling us.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, that the member does not do his research.

Mr. Peterson: Look at the two-year history.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was all there.

Mr. Peterson: Even though it came in over budget, it was down last year and it is down again this year over last year. Those are the realities.

How is the Treasurer going to address the problems of the polluted beaches in Toronto this year when it is recognized that major capital expenditures are going to have to be undertaken? How did he provide for those in his budget? How is he going to provide for assistance in cleaning up the acid rain in this province? His colleague is musing that public moneys may have to be involved in that discussion. What are his commitments to the beaches and to cutting down acid rain? What are his commitments to the Niagara River?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand the member's problem, but to answer that desperate supplementary question—

Mr. Kerrio: Besides trying to get elected as leader.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The members should respect the right of the member to hear the answer to the question he asked.

Mr. J. A. Reed: It is very difficult.

The Deputy Speaker: Just contain yourselves.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It has been a difficult week for the members. I understand that.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition, the funding has been provided in the budget of the Ministry of the Environment to look after those problems in accordance with what we determine is needed this year. As to the list the member has, which he wanted to read this morning, I can assure him there is an \$11-million increase in the Ministry of the Environment's budget to look after those problems as we anticipate them at this time for this year.

Mr. Peterson: What is the Treasurer going to do for the needs in Stoney Creek where there has been a request? What is he going to do for the needs in the Haldimand-Norfolk region where there has been a request for a major project for sewage treatment? What is he going to do for Port Whitby? Is he going to respond to those needs or is he going to let them come under his knife? When is he going to address those real environmental problems?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know the member did hear the previous answer, which was that there have been no cuts in the budget of the Ministry of the Environment. Therefore, it might be im-

proper for the member to suggest there is a knife being taken to the projects he has on his list. There is an \$11-million increase, not a decrease in the Ministry of the Environment budget.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the minister keeps talking about "one time only" almost as if he has taken instructions in economics from Honest Ed. How does he explain the fact that in 1981-82 the budget of the Ministry of the Environment was \$345 million and it is now \$331 million? Was that one time only in 1981-82, one time only in 1982-83 or one time only in 1983-84. Which was it? When was the one time only?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I might offer this to the leader who has had to resort to silly little quotes this week. If he thinks I got my economics from Honest Ed, it is quite clear that Honest Ed is providing better courses in economics than Geneva.

His colleagues can feel free to drop into the estimates of the Ministry of the Environment. Notwithstanding the fact that they are estimates for the current year, the members can chat about estimates for previous years. I am here this morning to speak about what we have planned for next year and what kind of increases we have accommodated. The fact is that in the Ministry of the Environment we have accommodated an \$11-million increase for next year.

FUNDING OF MINISTRIES

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, speaking of cuts in the budgets of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Energy, I wonder if the minister can explain why, for the second year in a row, the budget of the Ministry of Energy has been cut in the important areas of renewable energy, energy conservation and alternative energy. At a time when Ontario Hydro's budget is expanding willy-nilly, when Hydro is spending \$3.4 million on advertising for the "talking" furnace, can he explain why there has been a \$3-million reduction in the budget of the Ministry of Energy?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, before I do so and again give an answer that is disappointing to the honourable member, let me say that, on this ministry-by-ministry exercise, the estimates process is in place and his critics can go to those estimates and—

Mr. Martel: Oh, shut up and answer the question. We do not need a lecture. We know the estimates are coming.

The Deputy Speaker: Members, last Friday we had this kind of language. You know the rules do not permit this kind of inflammatory language.

age. If one starts it, it provokes it from the other side. We have permitted somewhat of a balancing of that, but let us for the remainder of the question period just remember that it does nothing for the decorum of the House and avoid it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The Treasurer has no respect for anybody.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We do not need any advice on respect when the member's House leader tells us to shut up when we are trying to answer a serious question.

Mr. Martel: Oh, get off it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What a supercilious ass.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will answer the question and ask for them not to listen but just to be polite for a moment.

The ministry-by-ministry estimates process is set up for the member to review these. As I indicated, there is no cut in services as a result of the budget we brought in on Tuesday.

Mr. Rae: It is a miracle.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I agree with the member; it is a miracle.

To answer the member's question with regard to the Ministry of Energy—and I am glad the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) is here—its budget is lower by \$3 million. Of that \$3 million, \$2.3 million relates to lower transfer payments to the Ontario Energy Corp. because of lower interest payments on the Suncor purchase.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, but \$2.3 million less this year. That is the budget cut he is complaining about.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, how many hundred million is that going to cost? The Treasurer is the chief bookkeeper of this province. He drafted this document; I did not draft it. Since he wants to fudge the cut over last year, how does he explain the fact that the Ministry of the Environment was cut from \$341 million actual two years ago to \$312 million this year, a dramatic cut over a two-year period? Let him fool around with his accounting last year.

How does the Treasurer account for that steady decline in the priorities of his government?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, might I say first that it is not my government; it is the Premier's (Mr. Davis) government and it will be for a long time.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Might I remind the Leader of the Opposition that it will never be his government.

The Deputy Speaker: Will you answer the question?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Second, for those who were listening, just a mere moment ago I indicated in response to precisely the same question from the leader of the New Democratic Party that those kinds of questions are properly asked of my colleague.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer is the budget chief.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is right, I am the budget chief for 1984-85 and I am here to say to the member that the Ministry of the Environment, no matter how many times he comes back at it, has an \$11-million increase in the budget I presented on Tuesday, and that is the budget I am here to answer for this Friday, not the 1982 budget.

Mr. Rae: What the Treasurer is saying is that he does the cutting and he has to ask—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. What is the supplementary, please?

Mr. Rae: —his colleagues to do the answering with respect to where the cuts are coming. That is what he is saying. If the Treasurer is going to do the cutting, surely he is the one who also has to do the answering.

The Deputy Speaker: Question.

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the Treasurer specifically how Ontario is going to be able to keep up with the need to improve the environment with respect to air and the quality of water.

Just to give him one example, the Ministry of the Environment is spending \$1 million on carbon filtration at the experimental plant at Niagara Falls, while the city of Cincinnati is spending \$40 million to improve its water treatment system. Is the Treasurer really satisfied with a situation in which Ontario is falling behind Cincinnati? Does he not realize that this is what happens when he cuts budgets?

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Really it comes back to a very important point. The Ministry of the Environment will get an \$11-million increase this year. That is the fact. If the member wants to discuss with my colleagues the priorities this ministry sets and how it is going to use that new, additional money this coming year, he should feel free to do so. My job is to determine how much we should spend government-wide in this coming year. My colleagues have assured me with respect to the amounts allocated to them that (a) they are happy with them, (b) they will

accommodate some new priorities, and (c) they will involve no cuts in services.

TAX BURDEN

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my new question is also to the Treasurer. I was hoping to ask it of the Premier (Mr. Davis) but I understand he will not be back in question period this morning.

The Treasurer may recall that in 1977 Premier Davis, as he then was and as the Treasurer rightly pointed out this morning still is, said: "Reducing the municipal tax burden on senior citizens is a commitment of the government. We are also committed to working towards the ultimate elimination of this particular tax for the majority of Ontario's senior citizens." That was the solemn commitment made by the Premier in 1977 to the senior citizens of this province.

How does the Treasurer feel about the fact that the real value of the property tax credit has dropped dramatically in the last 10 years, and how does he feel about the fact that an ever-declining number of senior citizens have managed to offset three quarters of their tax bill with the maximum grant assistance that is available? We are moving dramatically in the opposite direction from the commitment the Premier made in 1977. How does the Treasurer feel about the fact that his budget means the Premier is breaking his promise?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, senior citizens in this province, as the honourable member may know but not acknowledge, still remain the best-treated and best-looked-after in the nation.

Mr. Foulds: In spite of your betrayal.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is just silliness.

The fact is, while we would have liked to have moved more quickly in a number of areas, one of the more important things to do for our people is to make sure that in this province they are paying, for example, about the lowest rate of retail sales tax in the country. On this side of the House we believe that ensuring that we do not have deficits that are out of control and ensuring that we do not tax our people with one hand and pretend to give them something with the other is the way government should operate.

We could reorganize the system, but let us face it, if we speeded up the process, there would have to be other adjustments or increased deficits. Some of those other adjustments, one way or the other, would end up being borne by the people the member is pretending to help. By and large, so long as those senior citizens are very well treated in this province, and they are, and we

continue to make progress over the broad range of programs, I deduce that our senior citizens in this province not only are well treated but also know they are well treated.

Mr. Rae: I wonder if the Treasurer would like to try answering just one question. The Premier made a promise in 1977 that had two parts to it. The Treasurer can listen to the promise because it is important. This is what happened in 1977, an election year. He said he was "committed to reducing the municipal tax burden on senior citizens," a very specific promise, and that he was "working towards the ultimate elimination of this particular tax for the majority of Ontario's senior citizens."

Let us take the first part of that promise and ask the Treasurer this question. How does he explain the fact that property taxes in Brampton, on average, went up from \$920 in 1980 to \$1,200 in 1984? That is from a Royal Trust survey. That shows a dramatic or significant increase in the property tax burden on senior citizens living in the Premier's own constituency of Brampton.

How does the Treasurer explain the fact that the value of the tax credit has not gone up in any way to reflect the increase in property taxes and the burden falling on those citizens? How does he explain the fact that this means the Premier has broken his promise when he said he was going to "reduce the municipal tax burden on senior citizens"? He has not reduced the municipal tax burden. Why has he not reduced the municipal tax burden?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There are two things we should point out. First, with regard to the ability of our senior citizens to make some of those payments, the guaranteed annual income system payments will be up by 22.7 per cent, almost 23 per cent, over 1983. Even the member would acknowledge that is an important and significant increase which will increase the capability of those people to pay property tax increases.

Second, in the light of the member's concern about the property tax growth, I know he will be supportive of the budget where it refers to our concern about the increase in property taxes throughout the province. I know he will stand with us when we say to municipalities that they have to try to hold the line on direct operating expenses, as we have done in this government.

I know he will be helpful in encouraging municipalities to operate in such a way that their wage settlements to their employees do not exceed five per cent. Because of his concern for the tax problems and the mill rate increases

imposed on senior citizens, I know he will stand with us in fighting wage settlements in excess of five per cent and mill rates in excess of five per cent. I know I can count on the member.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on the Treasurer's last answer. Why is he issuing these threats to the municipalities and the boards of education in this province in attempting to shift the blame to locally elected officials?

His government's commitment to education, for instance, has since 1975 gone from over 61 per cent of the cost of education being borne by the province to less than 49 per cent in the past year. The government provides a stipulation for boards of education that they must become involved in mandatory programs such as special education. It insists that municipalities undertake special pollution abatement works. It insists that municipalities meet the costs of police services over which they have no direct control. It has frozen the per capita grant, for instance, to libraries. When the Treasurer is underfunding local governments, why is he then turning around and blaming them for an increase in local property taxes?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the reality is that the member will always say we are underfunding and, at the same time, he will always—

Mr. Bradley: That is what they are saying.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Is the member not saying we are underfunding?

Mr. Bradley: I am relaying their feelings to the Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I see. The member will not be counted on either side of that issue.

Mr. Bradley: I am with them.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Now the member has decided we are underfunding them. I will give him a few more minutes so he can decide where he wants to end up on the issue. Wherever the member wants to end up on that issue, might I only say—

Mr. Kerrio: You answer the questions; we just ask them.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Because the member cannot answer them; he is right.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member take his seat for a moment? We talked about municipalities but you injected boards of education in your supplementary. We permitted it. The

Treasurer is answering, so let us get the answer and go back to the final supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Whatever the member thinks about whether we are underfunding or not underfunding, or whether he agrees with them or does not agree with them, let me say there is one thing that is evident, and that is the direct operating expenses of municipalities and school boards are increasing by more than five per cent this year.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They are increasing by more than five per cent this year. We in this government decided we should hold our own direct operating expenses to last year's level, that is, a zero per cent increase.

The total cost of the increase to municipalities and school boards across this province is \$200 million. What we cannot deny is if that were cut, not to last year's level but just in half, that would save property taxpayers across this province \$100 million. We think that would be a modest and good goal for municipalities to seek because that would address all, or almost all, the concerns we all share about the cost that elderly people are facing in keeping their homes.

I know the member will join me in saying we should expect the same level of determination from municipalities in trying to keep their expenses down rather than increasing mill rates. That is an important goal, and we are not about to shirk our responsibility. As unpopular as I know it will be with municipal governments, I think it is appropriate to expect them to hold the line, not even as much as this government but perhaps half as much with, say, \$100 million.

11 a.m.

Mr. Rae: Can the Treasurer tell us whether the promise made in 1977 by the Premier (Mr. Davis) was a one-time-only promise?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We have had the opportunity to make promises that improve the circumstances and to deliver on those now for only 41 years. It was not a one-time-only promise. We will have the opportunity to make and keep that promise again; maybe sooner, maybe later, but we will be back.

RED MEAT PLAN

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. I am sure he is aware that this is May 18, the last day he and the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) have to announce an assistance program for the

red meat industry before the Ontario Federation of Agriculture calls for their resignation.

The Treasurer may recall a meeting he had with farmers last October when he stated: "We are not going to let the beef industry die. We are not going to let any part of the agricultural industry die." On November 30 he said: "We simply cannot accept a situation in which efficient and productive farmers are forced to abandon their operations because they are caught in the squeeze of high input costs and low commodity prices."

How does the Treasurer intend to live up to these promises when in the budget his commitment to the agricultural industry is no more than a rehash of old promises and previous commitments and totally ignores the urgent need of farmers in severe financial difficulties?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, as I have listened to the farming community over the past period of time, as I have spoken at length with my colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food and as I have listened to the concerns expressed from the honourable member's side of the House, it has seemed to me that the major and overriding concern of all farmers is the cost of credit. If we could provide an appropriate underpinning to that major problem, most of the other concerns would be greatly alleviated.

In an attempt to do that, we chose in this budget to address the fundamental problem; that is, instead of seeking to enter another patchwork of programs to try to fix certain parts of the industry, it was our determination that my colleague and I should spend some time working out an agribond plan that would work in Ontario and across Canada.

As I know the member understands, even if his colleagues may not, the major responsibility in terms of farm credit is and always has been at the federal level. The member will acknowledge that, I know.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Oh yes, he will.

In doing this budget, therefore, we concluded that the most important thing we could do for the farming community was to say to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, "You have our support financially and policywise to go to the federal government and say that Ontario is ready, willing and funded to proceed with an agribond program."

I trust the member will speak to his federal colleagues, who form the only stumbling block now to having an agribond program for the farmers of Ontario, a program put together by our

Minister of Agriculture and Food. We in this province are in the circumstance of saying, "We have the only agribond proposal that is supported not only by the Minister of Agriculture and Food but also by the Treasurer."

With that combination, the only blockage to agribond programs for all the farmers the member speaks for is the government that has the primary responsibility for farm credit, and that is the federal government. That was a very important thing we did. Let us see whether the federal government will come through on its undertaking, shall we call it.

Mr. McKessock: The agribond issue was an Ontario Federation of Agriculture issue and a federal issue, and the minister now wants to tag along on it.

As the Treasurer may be aware, the OFA in its reaction to the so-called substantial assistance to the farming community in transition stated that the provincial budget blatantly ignores the immediate critical need of the farm sector and that this budget has no news as far as agriculture is concerned.

Does the minister understand that his so-called substantial commitment is nonexistent and that his prebudget hearings at which farm groups made specific suggestions to him are simply charades? Will he agree that the Minister of Agriculture and Food's argument against providing emergency assistance to help our farmers on the ground that Ontario would be accused of bargaining in bad faith on a tripartite stabilization program is nothing more than an excuse for inaction?

Other provinces are helping their farmers. Saskatchewan introduced a seven-point assistance program in its budget just a month ago, including a livestock investment tax credit for farmers that will pay \$25 per head for cattle, \$3 for hogs and \$2 for lambs.

The Deputy Speaker: And the question is?

Mr. McKessock: It is exciting to see what a change in government has done for the farmers in Saskatchewan. I am sure that is what is needed in Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker: That is a statement. We are looking for a question here.

Mr. McKessock: The minister has been taking Ontario farmers for a ride and they have given him a free lunch. When is he going to start paying his share—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will do my best to answer that speech. First, I think the member

pointed out that the agribond was a proposal of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. He accused me of endorsing that program. I accept.

Mr. McKessock: It is a federal program. The minister wants to tag along so he can blame it on the feds if it does not come through.

The Deputy Speaker: The member is out of order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I thank the member for helping the point I was making in my first reply, that this program is properly a federal one. His friends in the OFA and his friends in Mr. Whelan's office will tell him they expect provincial participation to mount the agribond program—

Mr. McKessock: Take a look at Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me finish. I know this is not typed out for the member. Since this is an OFA-federal government program, that attests to the importance of this government saying clearly in its budget that for our part, yes, we accept participation in an agribond program.

Mr. McKessock: Thank you very much. Let us get on with it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I trust the member will report to the federal government that Ontario is ready, funded and willing to go with the agribond and that the OFA has succeeded in getting this government to agree that an agribond proposal is the right way to go.

Mr. McKessock: Now back to the red meat industry.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Back to the red meat question.

As the member knows, my colleague has been receiving a great deal of support from that sector for his courageous proposals.

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is why they are calling for his resignation. If they liked him any better, they would string him up.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have here a letter from the Ontario Cattlemen's Association. I trust the member has one or two members of the cattlemen's association in his fine area.

Mr. McKessock: Not as many as we had a while ago.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In response to the member's request for some subsidy payments, I will quote directly from the letter: "We have been sufficiently close to the negotiations," led by my colleague "to know that the kind of payment you are requesting will destroy any hope of achieving tripartite stabilization."

Mr. McKessock: You know Saskatchewan can do it.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member disagrees with the statement I have just read, he should call the cattlemen's association, which wrote this letter to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture supporting the position of this government.

Mr. McKessock: How come Saskatchewan can do it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member disagrees with the position I have just read, I am sure the cattlemen's association will be pleased to hear from him.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, does the Treasurer not realize the call for resignation had nothing to do with federal programs? The Ontario Federation of Agriculture was calling for the resignation of the Treasurer and of the Minister of Agriculture and Food because this government did not do anything, because it did not implement the red meat program.

Does the Treasurer realize it is very easy for him to support a federal program that is going to cost the province nothing or very little? It is easy for him to support the funding of the agribond.

The Deputy Speaker: Question.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. Swart: Will the Treasurer live up to his responsibility and do something like the other provinces have done with regard to red meat stabilization and with regard to long- and short-term funding for the agricultural community?

The Treasurer talks about not wanting to put another patch on the patchwork quilt. There is only one big hole in that patchwork quilt of programs by the provinces, and that is that the province of Ontario has done nothing. Let us plug that hole and do something here.

Mr. Gillies: Good speech. Was there a question in there?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not think there was, frankly.

Mr. Speaker, I would only say to the honourable member that, as always when governments try to show some leadership, there will be those who are worried and nervous about change. It does take some courage to mount the steps my colleague has mounted. None the less, it is encouraging to note that in spite of that call for our resignations, which upon careful reflection we have decided to reject, the corn producers'

association has disavowed and disagreed with the OFA resolution. The cattlemen's association also has rejected that suggestion, as has the sheep association. I might say personally that I was delighted to receive the endorsement of the pork association.

EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour arising from statements in his letter to me in response to the questions I raised in the House on May 8 regarding the need for compensation of victims of asbestos-related laryngeal cancer at Bendix Inc. in Windsor.

Since the minister acknowledges in his letter the serious criticisms made of the deficiencies in the Finkelstein study, footnoted in the commission's report, does he find it acceptable that the commission would use this study as additional evidence for its assertion that workers exposed to asbestos in friction materials operations face risks that are marginal, without even mentioning the scientific controversy surrounding the study?

Is the minister prepared to acknowledge that the study by Dr. Berry and Dr. Newhouse in Derbyshire, England, observed mortality after only 10 years from first exposure, a remarkably short period of time in which many latent effects of exposure to asbestos would not have become apparent?

Why does the commission rely on such blatantly inadequate studies to decide that laryngeal cancer is unlikely related to asbestos exposure?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, that question could more appropriately be responded to by the authors of the commission report.

Mr. Wildman: I would like to ask the minister a supplementary with regard to what the minister is going to do in response to the commission's report.

Despite the deficiencies in the Finkelstein study, it has been pointed out by Dr. Mike Silverstein of the United Auto Workers in Detroit that in that study there are more than 11 times the predicted number of deaths from laryngeal cancer, a type of cancer known to be associated with asbestos exposure, and there is a strong and definite possibility there is enormous asbestos effect in this group of people working with friction materials such as those at Bendix.

If that is the case, is the minister prepared now to do what the commission did not do and to indicate clearly that this government will direct the Workmen's Compensation Board to bend

over backwards to ensure there will be compensation benefits for the families of the victims of laryngeal cancer at places like Bendix and that all the workers who have been exposed will be compensated?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. You really did exceed the bounds of the supplementary, but if the minister has a response, I will allow it.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would just like to read two short passages from the letter of May 14 to my friend opposite, to which he has referred.

At one point in the letter I say, "Turning to the basis of the commission's conclusions concerning work exposures to asbestos in factories manufacturing friction materials, I am certain you can appreciate that beyond what appears in the report, only the commission can elaborate on the reasons for its conclusions." That was the reason for my first answer to his question this morning.

I would like to go further, though, because he refers to Dr. Finkelstein's paper. I say in that same letter, "It appears from the report, however, that the commission reviewed a study by Mr. Berry and Dr. Newhouse, of a friction material factory in Derbyshire, England, and another study by Dr. A. D. MacDonald of a Connecticut, USA, factory in considering the health risks from asbestos and friction material manufacturing."

Here is the key point. "The reference to Dr. Finkelstein's paper appeared in a footnote and served as only a supplemental reference. The commission noted in the footnote that the paper was a draft."

In response to the last question asked by the honourable member as to the Workers' Compensation Board, I am quite confident the WCB will address the concerns he has expressed on behalf of the workers.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations with respect to a report in yesterday's Toronto Sun.

I would like to ask the minister whether the request by the well-publicized New Democrat, Mr. Spencer, for a 99 per cent rent increase has been withdrawn from the Residential Tenancy Commission, since an offer to sell to the tenants for a price higher than paid by him has reportedly been made?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the answer to that question, but I will be pleased

to obtain the information and advise the honourable member.

If the member wishes some additional comments on the second part of the question with respect to the sale itself, that is really a family squabble in the New Democratic Party and they will have to resolve that themselves.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW BOARD

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, on Monday the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) asked why it took the Social Assistance Review Board 90 days to reach a decision in the case of Waruna Hoelke.

There appear to have been two factors, caused in part by the complexity of the case which led to the board overrunning its regulated time of reaching a decision in 61 days. The first was the lengthy time taken by the board members to complete their record of hearing. The second was the raising of complex legal questions, which caused the board to refer the case to Mr. Harold Fulton, its solicitor, for his review.

Although I recognize this was a complicated case, I am not satisfied the record of hearing was completed as quickly as it could have been. In that regard, I have written the chairman of the Social Assistance Review Board the following letter:

"A recent question in the Legislature has resulted in my review of the case of Mr. Waruna Paul Hoelke. I will not go into the details of the timing and events with respect to the case, but there appears to have been an unwarranted delay caused by the tradiness of some board members in submitting a completed record of hearing.

"If this had been an isolated incident, I might not be writing in this regard, but we are both aware that there have been other occasions where members of the board have caused unwarranted delays.

"You will recognize that I, as Minister of Community and Social Services, am responsible to the Legislature for the Social Assistance Review Board. This responsibility is an arm's-length arrangement with respect to the operation of the board's activities so as not to interfere with their decision-making. However, as minister, I do believe that disciplinary action may be required when inordinate delays are caused or generated by members in rendering their decisions.

"I would request that you ensure that in each and every instance members complete the record of hearing no later than the Monday following the holding of the hearing. I therefore ask you to

provide me with the schedule of disciplinary action you propose to take in the event that in the future board members do not carry out their duties with due dispatch."

It is signed by me. I have sent the honourable member a copy of the letter.

I am satisfied that Mr. Fulton proceeded as promptly as possible in rendering legal advice. The member is totally wrong in his allegations about fees of \$1,000 a day. Mr. Fulton's fees in this matter were \$180. I would suggest the member should apologize for remarks he made concerning the board's legal counsel.

11:20 a.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, in responding, I first thank the minister for the action he has taken; I appreciate it. This is the first time this kind of action has taken place over the delays at the board, and I am very pleased to see it.

Second, if I was incorrect about the amount of money being paid to lawyers on decisions, I apologize for that. In the estimates I will be asking exactly how much money is going to ministry legal people working on these cases and the amount being paid to outside firms for legal decisions.

Concerning the decision, of which I now have a copy, would the minister not agree that besides the problems of the delays in filing answers, the major problem we have now with learning disability cases coming under vocational rehabilitation is the regulation that has been brought in under 7(a), subsection 2(a), under which, as the minister knows, it is now possible for the Social Assistance Review Board to say as it does in this ruling that it does not have the right to make a decision about whether a child can be served appropriately by a board unless the board of education indicates it cannot provide a service? That therefore takes away its capacity to be a quasi-judicial board making decisions on the merit of a case. The school board can therefore—

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is part of the question.

Does the minister not agree this regulation now takes away the judicial powers of the board? It will no longer hear the case on the merits but will allow a school board to say in advance, "We can provide," and then I and other people acting as advocates for learning disabled kids have no right to argue the merits of whether that board can deal with it. As a result of a technicality, this kid is now not able to attend an appropriate school. That is a very serious situation.

The Deputy Speaker: I think we have a question.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear because of the flow of Hansard today that the minister does not even know what the decision was, and he should not know. The honourable member knows what the decision was because he acted in capacity in this case.

With regard to that regulation, looking at it in the abstract and not in connection with this case, the fundamental proposition, put more simply, would be that when the board of education says it is providing the education, the quality or degree of education cannot be made a question before the board. Even though there is only about a year of this type of procedure left since Bill 82 will end it, that matter gives me a bit of concern.

Although I suppose one of the courses might be to say there are diminishing returns and we probably have only one more round of people coming before the board, or at least next year's cases coming before the board, I want to take a look at that, perhaps in discussion with two of my colleagues, the Attorney General (Mr. McMurry) as chief law officer of the crown and the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson). I doubt we will be able to come to a decision by the end of the session but I will reply to the member as soon as possible over the summer.

AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Treasurer if he would clarify two matters pertaining to the budget as it relates to agriculture. First, the comment which has been widely repeated in the agricultural community about the huge infusion of new money into the agricultural budget really amounts to only \$5 million more than was spent by that ministry in 1982-83. Surely the minister is not going to give us the response that a one-time-only expenditure accounts for the fact we are getting only one per cent more than we were getting in 1982.

In the same vein, the fact is there are no new taxes, but the imposition of an ad valorem tax plus a superimposition of a sales tax on tobacco is netting an additional \$40 million in tobacco tax this year over last year. That is not a one-time-only event. That additional \$40 million is collected because of the imposition of the seven per cent sales tax on the tax.

Will the Treasurer explain to my constituents why those two anomalies still perpetuate what they consider to be an unfair aspect of this budget and previous budgets?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I think in fairness we really cannot be accused of doing anything unfair to the tobacco farmers in this budget since, having met with them an extraordinary number of times, if there was one clear message they gave me it was to have no new taxes on tobacco products this year.

Mr. Nixon: There is \$40 million more extracted. Who are you kidding about this?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Don't you kid about it. There were no new tobacco taxes.

Mr. Nixon: You must think they are stupid.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member must not have met with them as often as I did, because they were very clear and direct: "Do not increase the retail sales tax. Do not increase the tobacco tax rate." Those were their two major requests. We met both of their requests; we gave them exactly what they requested.

Mr. Nixon: You are taking an extra \$40 million.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You folks are out of touch. I do not understand why the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) will not agree that this budget did not change the tax rate.

Mr. Nixon: You do not have to change the tax rate.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know that after the change of government in Ottawa, even the change of administration, they will want to review the Peters report, which the tobacco industry participated in; and, as I told the industry, I will be watching the results of that report with regard to the concern about the escalation of taxes.

We raised it quite clearly with them; as the member knows, I raised it several months ago. What they asked for this year was no tax increase while we sort out the Peters report. That is exactly what they got. They got exactly what they asked for.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Eaton moves that the select committee on the Ombudsman be authorized to sit Tuesday afternoon, May 22, after routine proceedings.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

Hon. Mr. Drea moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Elgie, first reading of Bill 77, An Act respecting

the Protection and Wellbeing of Children and their Families.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few remarks on what has been called and is increasingly being called, as we begin to discuss the details of the budget, a document of deception. That is an appropriate title to be used by those of us who went into the budget lockup on Tuesday.

As one began to read quickly through the budget, at first glance it looked like it had some substance. There were a lot of words and a lot of proposals that appeared to address social issues and appeared to address the most important economic and social issue: the terrible unemployment of our youth. As we began to cut away the rhetoric of the budget, we found the rhetoric was in no way matched by any reality of new initiative or new vision from this government.

I know Mr. Speaker would agree that the only transformation in this budget is not an economic transformation in this province, but is a transformation of names and a recycling of old programs under new titles. That is why it is a document of deception. It is even more than that. The Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) once again, in the House during question period today and in the last answer to the question asked by my House leader, indicated what a great deception this budget really is.

"There are no new taxes. There is not a dime's worth of new taxes in this budget," says the Treasurer, "other than a couple of minor new taxes. The tax on the Ontario health insurance plan is up and there is the new water rental tax which will cost the average consumer some money. There are minor taxes such as these, but there are no new taxes."

Let us look at the reality. The reality is there is a new tax this year on personal income tax. It is the five per cent social services maintenance tax and it is in this year. All that happened was it was hidden in last year's budget. If there is no new tax, I really wish the Treasurer could explain the astounding increase of almost \$1 billion in the amount of personal income taxes he is going to take in this year. Certainly, some of that will

come out of the additional taxes people will pay as they go back to work, but the fact of the matter is there is a \$400-million hidden tax increase. It is called the social services maintenance tax and while the Treasurer says he will take that tax off at the end of this year, we have heard a lot of talk from Tories about that kind of thing before. So that is one new tax.

Let me lump alcohol, gasoline and tobacco together, because this is the same old shell game from a government that delights in playing shell games. The Treasurer said: "I listened to the agricultural industry and we have no new tobacco taxes. We did what they asked us to do." In point of fact, they did not. There is no other explanation for the fact that tobacco taxes will go up \$41 million this year, from \$542 million to \$583 million, other than the fact that other increases along the way will allow the province to dip its hand into the taxpayer's pocket and take another \$41 million out of that pocket and out of that wallet.

The same holds true for the gasoline tax. One might wonder if people are going to drive so much more this year that there will be a \$44-million increase in gasoline taxes. After all, there is no mention of it in here. Taxes did not go up because the Treasurer said they they did not go up. But then, of course, we remember what *ad valorem* means. *Ad valorem* means every time the price goes up, from the producers, or a new tax from Ottawa, or any kind of a change, the province takes its little share.

Finally, in the same way and in the same mode, the distilling industry will find this government will take more from the taxpayers of this province this year and, to use one example, will once again hurt the hospitality industry.

The fact is there really is a shameful deception in this budget. Nowhere in the 21 pages of the Treasurer's statement does he acknowledge—and I want to acknowledge it this morning because I think it is very important—that the reason the deficit has dropped is that Ottawa bailed those people out again.

The level of increase in transfer payments over the last two years is 27 per cent. Would that the municipalities and school boards of this province had the same kind of break; but, of course, they do not. They have those folks over there; they have a government that takes the money from Ottawa and invests it in consulting services, in paying the Suncor debt, in paying the interest on the land banks, in paying the interest on Minaki Lodge and in paying for three provincial

secretaries who do nothing and whose duties are so ill defined that we can barely figure them out.

That is what we are paying for. We are paying for government waste. We are not passing that money on in new services in the health care field; we are not passing it along in new services in the social services field; indeed, we are not passing it on to the municipalities, which are so hard-pressed for cash their property taxes continue to rise.

What was the Treasurer's only word to the municipalities? It was a threat: "Get your house in order, fellows. That is a terrible thing you are doing. You are increasing property taxes six and seven per cent." As I get into my remarks, I will mention a couple of areas where the property tax increases are occurring directly as a result of this government's negligence in providing the services it has the ability to provide.

One of the little shell games the government played was just how expensive the social development policy field was. I did a little addition. The increase in the two fields of health and community and social services this year is approximately \$700 million or \$800 million. Even allowing for a five per cent increase, the increase would have been \$500 million, and yet the government is collecting an extra \$400 million from something called the social services maintenance tax.

It is playing its same old game. It is taking that \$400 million and saying: "We had better throw a little bit into the social policy field. We had better hide a little bit of it in there so we can claim we are actually doing something." But it is going to take about \$200 million of the social services maintenance tax this year and use it for something else, probably to pay the Suncor debt. I suspect it will use the hard-earned tax dollars that people have paid, thinking they are paying to maintain social services, and use them to help pay for our foolish purchase of Suncor.

Before I get into a number of social policy areas, I want to speak briefly about a matter of great local concern in my riding, in the whole area of Essex and Kent counties, in the Niagara Peninsula, here in Metropolitan Toronto and in a number of areas of Ontario, and that is the so-called help for the auto parts industry.

This is typical of the kind of deception the government has practised in this budget. On page 8 of the budget, the Treasurer speaks of how the impact of industrial transformation is more evident in the automotive sector. He says, "To help meet this challenge we will provide, through

BILD...a new three-year automotive parts investment fund."

11:40 a.m.

That, as members will recall, is what was promised to us in the speech from the throne. Indeed, that was what the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) indicated the government might be coming up with when he spoke on my private member's resolution last fall. In my private member's resolution, as I know members will remember, I suggested there should be some direct government involvement to help the Canadian-owned auto parts sector to modernize.

What do we get from this government? We get a commitment that we are going to have an automotive parts trust fund. That is great, but in typical fashion, having established the fund, lo and behold there is almost no money, only \$30 million. That is a fair amount of money, but like everything else in this budget, it is over three years. That means the auto parts industry of this province, the 700 or 800 auto parts sector firms, will get a measly \$10 million a year.

Those of us who have watched the economic transformation of the Big Three know that in terms of the retooling, redesigning and modernizing of their plants, one can talk of \$200 million, \$300 million or \$400 million for one plant alone. Many of the auto parts firms are small; they are certainly not those kinds of large plants. Even so, while \$30 million over three years might have been a reasonable amount for the city of Windsor, maybe even for the whole county of Essex, it certainly is not going to go very far to modernize the auto parts industry throughout this whole province.

It is typical of this government to mouth platitudes and nice words about how it believes in the small business sector as the engine that drives the economy, but never ask this government to put up a dime's worth of help for the industry. That is what we have not received again in this budget. We simply have the usual shell game, a lot of rhetoric: "Oh, yes, we are helping them out. We have established a trust fund." When we look below the surface, when we look for the money, there is no money. I think that is a tragedy for the auto parts industry.

I am very disappointed, because the Treasurer, who is a former Minister of Industry and Trade, should have understood the need for a trust fund that would have tripled that amount of money, but he has come up with only a measly \$30 million. It was typical of a budget that is long on rhetoric and short on substance, and substance in

a budget is the kind of dollars a government is willing to put into programs.

I want to turn to a number of social issues in my role as critic for the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The budget is not only an economic statement, it is also a social statement, a statement of this government's, or any government's, concern, particularly for the needy in our society. This budget is tragically short of concern for those people. The level of compassion is all contained in the rhetoric. There is no compassion when the money begins to flow.

Let me start with the issue I raised with the Treasurer today, which I raised with the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mr. Dean) yesterday. That is the tragedy of the 55,600 single recipients of the guaranteed annual income system for the disabled. Indeed, it is the tragedy of the additional recipients of Gains-D who are married and have children. I want to focus on the single disabled, although the problem is no less severe at the family level, as we all know when we try to deal with the horrible poverty we find as individual constituency members looking at constituency issues.

The tragedy for those disabled is that they receive \$382 a month. The single elderly, through a combination, particularly by Ottawa and latterly by this government, of a recognition of their need, will receive \$682 a month by the end of this year. That is being staged in. By the end of this year the difference between the single disabled and the single elderly will be \$300 a month.

The Provincial Secretary for Social Development, in a statement which I am sure he regrets, said last month the budget would indicate the government's intentions for the future for that group. It did. The intention is to ignore their plight, their existence of poverty and to say to those almost 56,000 individuals: "You are not very important. We gave the doctors 14 per cent last year. We can give the doctors 11 per cent or we can roll them back too, so we will give them nine per cent, but there is no money for the single disabled."

I am sure the Provincial Secretary for Social Development would understand that if he went immediately to the \$682 figure, it would cost \$70 million to \$80 million in the first full fiscal year. That money would be poured back dime for dime, dollar for dollar, into the economy because when people are earning that low a level of income they spend everything they can take in.

Even if the government had made a start in its usual famous way, phased in \$25 or \$50 now and

another \$50 in December, even if it had gone that route, the cost would be in the order of \$20 million to \$25 million in this first fiscal year. But the government could not find it in its heart to help the single disabled.

I cannot for the life of me understand this huge discrepancy in funding. The Treasurer stands in his place and says, "We are going to have some Canada pension plan reform." It is the same old cop-out from the Treasurer. He wants to have reform in an area where it is not going to cost him a dime, but he knows reform is not going to happen tomorrow, next week or next month and probably not next year. How long must they wait?

The single elderly receive that level of income because they are too old to work for the rest of their lives, while single disabled people, many of whom are called permanently unemployable, will be disabled for the rest of their lives too. What is the difference? In fact, there is none, except this government likes to put on a show that it cares for the single elderly and for the elderly in general. I suppose they are a little more powerful lobby group. There is no similar show for the disabled of this province.

The Treasurer said a lot of words about compassion and about showing compassion in his budget, but when it came to the disabled of the province, he stopped with words. There was no money; there were minor changes. There is the new attendant care program, which I will get to in a second, and changes in the assessment rates, an assessment holiday in a sense for accommodation changes. That is a program that will cost the government not one penny. It will cost the municipalities.

I noticed there was no pledge to help the municipalities, to say, "Send us the bill and we will help you for a period because you are going through tough times." There was none of that. The municipalities will not get the extra revenue; they will lose it. That is too bad for them.

11:50 a.m.

I want to turn to attendant care with respect to the disabled because the Treasurer alluded to it today. He talked about the great attendant care initiatives of this government. It is fair to examine the specifics in detail. When one cuts through the rhetoric of the budget, the Treasurer's phrase, "to expand our program of attendant care," really means he is going to expand group homes, otherwise known as cluster dwellings, by 78 people a year over five years. No wonder he did not use the exact numbers. How in heaven's name is that going to meet the

demands of those who are severely physically disabled to be able to live full and productive lives?

There was a comment from the previous Provincial Secretary for Social Development last fall in answer to a question about the five cornerstones of the government, the independence, equity and equality cornerstones of this government. For those who wish to lead independent lives, for those who wish equality, for those who wish to live a life following those five cornerstones, where is it in this program? There is simply no help.

There is a second program, and again it is no wonder they did not put numbers in the budget. It was too embarrassing. This new trumpeted outreach attendant care program is going to reach a grand total of 48 people annually over five years. I think the government will excuse the disabled of Ontario if they are not overwhelmed by its generosity.

Unless my mathematics are wrong, we are talking about an additional 600 or 700 people who will be helped by this government through attendant care by the end of the decade of the 1980s—not tomorrow, not next year, not even two years down the road, but by the end of the decade of the 1980s. I think we should all ponder this and think about it. We are not even to the middle of the decade, and five years from now the government will not have summoned up enough dollars to help even another 1,000 people.

I want to speak briefly about the assistive devices program as it pertains to the disabled. I was struck by a comment made yesterday by my seatmate, the Treasury critic for our party, that he always found it interesting that when someone lost a limb, when an arm or a leg was cut off in an accident, the government would pay the medical professionals for treating the injury, but when we tried to put this person's body back together at least somewhat, then we would not pay.

I think it is appalling that the budget did not extend the assistive devices program to those over 18 years of age. There are thousands of disabled adults in this province who have received the message from this government loud and clear that they are going to have to continue to approach charities and service clubs for the thousands of dollars they need for assistive devices.

I do not know about anyone on the government side or any members in this House right now, but I for one happen to think the service clubs have given and given almost more than they have to

give. Frankly, there is no more to give. The volunteer organizations and the volunteer sector simply cannot do what it is the duty of the government and of the legislators of this province to do. There is only so much money.

I found it interesting that the budget for children's programs has been progressively reduced, from \$10 million to \$5 million, in spite of the fact that the need is for somewhere around \$13 million.

I want to turn briefly to the matter of day care because, again, the budget was long on rhetoric and short on substance. The substance here was the commitment to help those women who want to work to be able to get out and work and to be able to leave their children in an environment where they will grow and learn.

In 1980 there were an estimated 355,000 children under the age of six in Ontario who needed some kind of full- or part-time day care. As of November 1983, there were 83,000 children enrolled in licensed day care centres, and at that time there were 24,500 subsidized children in Ontario, an increase of 66 per cent over 1980.

The 1,500 spaces created in the budget represent only a six per cent increase over that 1983 level. That falls substantially short of the Treasurer's rhetoric in his budget about child care, that the government understands that "access to high quality, affordable child care is an essential requirement...." If it is so essential, why were there so few new subsidized spaces?

Ontario needs more than 1,500 new subsidized spaces. Toronto had more than 1,300 children on its waiting list as of March 1984 and the city has requested a minimum of 1,700 new spaces. I must say I will be a little selfish here and say to the Toronto members I hope the 1,500 are not all used in Toronto because we have a need for some subsidized spaces in Windsor. There is a need for some subsidized spaces in a few other communities, but there is no doubt that Toronto's need is great. Ottawa's need is great; it needs 608. London needs 50 and Sault Ste. Marie needs 80. The list goes on and on.

Even worse than that, some day care centres are running deficits because their provincial grants for subsidized spaces are not large enough to cover the need in the area. Believe it or not, there are some people out there who still have some compassion. What they do is, if you need subsidized day care you are brought into the system.

Fort Frances, for example, has a deficit of approximately \$30,000. Sioux Lookout has a

deficit as well of \$30,000. Those may not be large deficits for this government or this city. Even in my own community of Windsor, \$30,000 is not much, but in Fort Frances or Sioux Lookout that is a lot of money. The municipalities have been bailing out those centres. They have been picking up the deficit and covering it all, but one day soon the municipalities simply are not going to be able to do that.

What was the government's response, showing compassion as it did to the municipalities? The government threatened them. The government said, "You municipalities are going to have to get your houses in order." One of the reasons the house has got out of order is that they are trying to do the job the government of Ontario refuses to do for those who need day care in this province. I for one think it is a pretty shameful commentary. They have lots of money for all their extra perks and emoluments over there. Maybe we ought to be diverting it to the people who really need our help.

The second part of the program is the \$1.2 million targeted for single parents. All this is going to be is an extended baby-sitting service. That is not what day care is really about. It is going to be unsupervised, it is going to be unregulated and it may often be unsafe. I refer the government members particularly to some of the comments in the recent report of the women's directorate pointing out that exact problem, the lack of safety. Single parents deserve adequate licensed care for their children.

I want to deal quickly with a couple of other areas. I could talk about family violence and the continuing refusal of this government. It has put in another \$3.5 million to expand shelter services, which means we are simply going to have more transition and interval houses that are going to be in crisis. The answer to the problem is block funding. I do not know how much longer it is going to take this government to come to that point and understand that.

12 noon

I see my friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) is here. I believe he sat on that committee. He was one of those who recommended block funding. Mr. Acting Speaker, I think you, as the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson), sat on the social development committee. It seems to me that the committee, in doing its work as carefully and thoroughly as it did, took a look at the various funding alternatives and came to the conclusion that block funding was the only acceptable alternative.

Perhaps I can make a modest suggestion to those members on the government side who sat on that committee. Maybe they should at least raise this matter in caucus, if they cannot get into the cabinet room. Maybe they could put up their hands and say: "Let us have a discussion about whether we really mean what we said. We want to put some dollars behind our rhetoric in terms of family violence." I will leave that to the members of the government party. If they want to do it, that is fine. A new Liberal government will move quickly to correct that wrong.

Mr. Barlow: Not for a long time.

Mr. Wrye: If the Tories want to go for an election this fall, then we will just be over there six months earlier than if they go next spring.

I want to turn briefly to the Ministry of Labour. We have not picked on the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) in terms of spending cutbacks, because he did not get hit quite as badly as our poor friend the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt), who must be wondering what he has to do and what kinds of crises we have to have to get some decent funding for the environment of this province.

I am trying to remember the numbers from the previous year; maybe as I speak I can find them. I notice the Minister of Labour once again this year found he was on the short end of the funding mess; he lost another \$1 million and now is down to about \$74 million. Those of us on this side believe in cutbacks, but we wonder why there are these kinds of cutbacks in a ministry that is as essential to the working people of this province as the Ministry of Labour.

If the money were for consultant services I could applaud that, but I suspect it is not. I would have thought a modest increase was in order, and I am sure my friend the parliamentary assistant would agree with me, particularly given the bold commitments this government is making to having all those new employment standards officers running around the province making sure its brand new equal pay strategy is implemented.

I see that the overall staff of the Ministry of Labour this year is going to go up by a grand total of some 27. I suggest with all due respect that this is one area where the number is probably inadequate. We have two employment standards officers in Windsor, and we could probably use at least two more to make sure working men and women are getting their just due. Yet here is another ministry that has been slashed.

I think it says something unfortunate about the clout in cabinet of my good friend the Minister of Labour, who is a man of genuine compassion. I

am afraid in the cabinet offices he is not a man of real clout. By cutting back the budget in this area, do we want to cut back on employment standards officers? Do we want to cut back on inspectors in the occupational health and safety branch? Do we really want cutbacks in such areas that are fundamental to the protection of the workers of this province?

Before I wrap up, I want to turn very briefly to the issue of the training of women and older workers. In a sense, I am wrapping up the same way I began, talking about the shell game of this government. The government in its budget said it would provide \$40 million for special training initiatives targeted to help women, older workers and others adversely affected by technological changes. That sounds very good, something we can all applaud: \$40 million of new money.

When the Treasury officials came into the lockup, we asked, "Is this \$40 million all new money?" The Treasury official said, "No, not exactly." We said, "What programs are you replacing?" The official replied, "We have three right now: the technical upgrading program, the training in business and industry program and the Ontario training incentive program."

We asked, "How much money did they have last year?" When the government is caught in another of its shell games, trying to find out is hard. They have all the numbers when they look good, but they are never too sure when they do not look good. The Treasury official said, "Somewhere over \$20 million." I suggested \$24 million or \$25 million. "Maybe not that high."

It is not a \$40-million program. It is a \$15-million program. Why do we not call it what it is? Why do we not stop offering the people of Ontario a perception of action when there is no action? That is typical of this government.

We have perhaps a grand total of \$15 million for all the older workers who are being laid off and desperately need some money to get them back earning money so they can help fund the array of services we want funded in Ontario. Some of that \$15 million is for workers affected by technological change and some of it is for the women of this province. The final answer is that there is not very much for anyone. That is the ultimate condemnation of this budget.

I will praise the Treasurer, who in a positive way has shown the ability to be somewhat more innovative than his predecessor, fine gentleman that he is but rather lacking in imagination. The Treasurer has shown imagination in two areas. He has some programs that show some thoughtfulness and possibility, but his second imagina-

tion was in trying to figure out a way to pretend there was action when there was not.

One can have a vast array of programs—there are certainly more programs than there is money—but if one does not have the budget to support them, they are useless. They may be worse than useless, because they put on a show of action, substance, vision and reform where there is none.

I wish this budget had captured the kind of vision we need in Ontario. Instead, it is a budget of a government that is worn out and tired; it is a budget, in the phrase my friend the provincial secretary used, of a "settled government"; a government settled in its ways and determined not to leave those ways, a government that puts out a message of being a good manager but in reality is fresh out of ideas and initiatives and is not managing this province with the kind of dexterity needed in a province with a budget of \$25 billion or \$27 billion.

I regret that is so, but in the months to come, as people see the reality of this budget, they will realize they have been conned once again with some hidden tax increases and with programs that exist nowhere but on paper and in the imaginative mind of the Treasurer. They will unfortunately find the government has done little, if anything, to help the unemployed and helpless in our society get back to having some dignity and self-respect.

12:10 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate, for once, that we are here at quorum level in the House on a Friday to deal with what should be the most important document of the year. Normally it would be a tragedy, but that is the way this place operates in terms of not having serious attention paid to debate within this chamber, attention it often warrants.

In this case, if we were to go to subquorum level, probably nobody would raise a quorum call because this document is not worth any more concentration than six or seven of us here nattering amongst ourselves.

When we give speeches here, we often feel it is a hard place to give one because: "My God, there are only a few of us here. There is no response. Who are we talking to anyway?" Today I really do not care. I would just as soon be here talking to myself about this and talking about why this budget is so senseless. The Treasurer, in his responses in this House to questions that are asked, has been supercilious and offensive to people on this side, especially on social issues.

The only thing that is right about this whole budget is that it is entitled Economic Transformation and talks about social transformation in the body of it. That is what our society is going through; there is no doubt about that at all. It is appropriate to have that tag on it. Frankly, all we get is flim-flammy and really neat packaging of ideas, but absolutely no substance and no real attention to the transformation that is taking place.

If I get enraged, as I was today in question period about the responses to questions by opposition parties that I considered to be substantial, it is because this document is so out of touch with the economic realities and the social transformation that I see taking place out there.

On Wednesday, I have my riding hours; others here have theirs on different days of the week. I had to give a speech afterwards so we crammed those who were coming forward in about an hour and a half. Eight different people or groups came in to talk to me. It was the day after this budget had come down. They came in with some of the most tragic stories and heart-rending tales of what they were going through while our province is undergoing this economic transformation.

I thought, "What has this document done for any of them?" It has not done anything. It does not address in serious terms what is happening to our society with the kinds of changes that are taking place.

There are those among us, and we are part of them, who are privileged and doing very well through the recession, the recovery or whatever one wants to call it. We are benefiting tremendously at this point. At the same time there are increasing numbers of people out there who are suffering terribly. They are a minority—and I guess that is why we can ignore them as we have in this budget—but they are an increasing minority.

This is no time for a tricky budget of traditional good times that one can put out in this fashion. This is a time to address the seriousness of the situation. This is not the time to be proud that we spend less per capita on the people of this province than any other province does. This is no time to say, "I am able to hold down the deficit at this point."

What does a triple-A rating mean to a person who has been waiting for a year and a half for subsidized housing? What does it mean to the SKF worker who has been unemployed for two and a half years now, whose family is disintegrating around him and who has lost all sense of his

own self-worth? It means nothing. This is an immoral budget.

I hear the Treasurer talking about the things that are going to be done, whether in day care, socially assisted housing or to assist single-family benefits mothers, all of a sudden and out of the blue, even in the miserable terms he is talking about. It is as if this has not been the government we have had for the last 40 years. It has had a chance to deal with this; it has not dealt with it. Now it wants to tinker some more, as if that is going to do anything, when we need economic and social transformation to assist the people who are being left out.

The first person who came into my office on Wednesday was a glass worker who earns about \$16,000 a year. His daughter, he is proud to say, has gone to McMaster University. She is going to be a teacher and is going to move up in society. Yet she had run into a landlord who had charged illegal rent while she was at school and she was now having to go to court to get that money back. She was having to travel all the way to Hamilton. He was taking a day off work to go and represent her in court. She was feeling pretty disadvantaged as to the way society operates.

The next person who came in had a much more serious problem. She did not even want my help, but just wanted to talk. She is a deserted woman. Her husband left four years ago and has paid two months of support in that period, although he was supposed to have paid \$300 a month.

She went on to family benefits but could not stand the humiliation and what it felt like to go into a store with her cheque to try to get somebody to cash it, with them understanding that she was on social assistance. She could not stand the feeling of separation that took place and the put-down she felt, feeling less than human and that somehow it was her fault this guy had run out and that she had caused that to take place. She could not stand it and she went out and got work.

She now has a job that allows her to bring home about \$750 a month. She has three children at home. She cannot pay her rent at this point. She needs her tax credit back from her income tax before she will be able to meet the deficit she has.

The day before she came in to see me her 17-year-old son was at home. He is at school but is looking for work to try to help the family income. The landlord appeared with his eviction notice. This was after they had been to court and the judge had already ruled that she should be given time to pay, because it was not through any fault of her own but just because of her lack of

income that she was unable to pay. He still went ahead with an eviction notice.

The landlord not only gave her the notice but he also abused her son by saying: "What is a big, strapping fellow like you doing sitting around here on his ass anyway? Why are you not out there getting a job? If you had a job, your mother would be able to pay the rent and we would not have these problems."

The landlord was placing the onus on the kid, who had already gone through a family breakdown and had been living in poverty for four years, and was making him feel that he was personally responsible for the economic situation we find ourselves in and the social situation he found himself in.

All the woman wanted to do was talk. She said: "I cannot talk to anybody else in my building. They will not accept me because of what I have gone through and the problems I have."

I ask myself: What has this budget done for that woman with the fundamental inequality she experiences in this society and the fact that her husband, who under law is supposed to provide her with \$300 a month, has not done so for years? As a result, she and her three children are living in poverty.

12:20 p.m.

The next person who came in was somebody living in Ontario Housing Corp. housing, an overpaid hospital worker. The members know about those people who make those grand amounts of money. Her income is \$14,000 a year. She has three children and is paying \$450 a month rent in Ontario Housing. That is subsidized housing for someone who makes \$14,000 a year. She is no longer even eligible for full Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance. In this province, a person at that level has to pay part of the premium.

She could not understand why her rent had not been reduced after her daughter, who had a part-time job, lost that job. She thought rent was supposed to be geared to income. Unfortunately, her daughter is now 21 years old and as far as Ontario Housing is concerned she has a responsibility to bring in money, whether or not she is working.

What has this budget done for her? What has it done for that working-poor family? It means she now has to pay more in Ontario health insurance plan premiums. She will pay proportionately more in taxes this year than the members in this House and I will do, at \$45,000, \$48,000 or whatever it is we make here these days, part of

which is tax free. That is part of our privilege in this society. This budget has not addressed such people who are suffering very dramatically in a very real way.

The next family who came in to see me, a family of four with two small children, has been trying to get into Ontario Housing accommodation. They have been on the OHC waiting list for a year and a half. They have been living in an apartment in a house where there is not sufficient protection from the elements to stop the rain from coming in. Any time the wind blows from the east the rain just pours in and soaks the whole place. There has not been proper heating and they pay \$500 a month.

They are now lower on the OHC waiting list than they were four months ago. Why? Because the father got a job. He got a Canada-Ontario employment development job. He got a job that was supposed to requalify him for unemployment insurance. As a result of getting a job, they lost points and dropped down the waiting list.

He has now discovered the job that was supposed to provide him with enough weeks of work to get him back on to Unemployment Insurance Commission payments is going to stop two weeks short. The park they are fixing up is going to be done two weeks in advance, and all those people who thought they were going to requalify for UIC benefits are going to end up with none at all.

By about the second week in June, he is going to be out of work. By the last two days in June, he is being asked by his landlord to vacate his apartment. He still cannot get any more points on the OHC waiting list. He cannot increase his chances of getting in.

I told him that from my experience recently, what would take place was that they would be evicted. He would go on welfare. That would increase their points and put them farther up the list. It would not guarantee them housing. They would then probably have to go to a hostel. He said they would never do that. That would mean they would split up the family and he and one child would go to the one-bedroom apartment of his brother and his brother's wife and one child. His wife would go to her sister's apartment where there is already a family of three living. That would also increase their points. Then they might have a very good chance of getting into Ontario Housing by the end of September.

What has this budget done for those people? Mr. Speaker, you will be very pleased to know it has addressed their needs. There has been an enormous investment in assisted housing in

Ontario. Each year for the next number of years the government is going to create 600 new spaces for people who need subsidized housing.

The reason that person is so far down the waiting list is that there are 18,000 families waiting for housing in Ontario. There are going to be 640 spaces added to what we already have, which is really going to help those waiting lists a great deal, especially when one considers that handicapped singles and seniors will also be eligible. There are a further 8,000 people waiting for those spaces right now.

That is what this government has done to address the reality. It does nothing for these people. There is not one new building. That was admitted by absence of reply by the Treasurer today when he was asked.

One cannot build the units the government is talking about building for the money being talked about. For \$10,000 a unit, it means it is going to get subsidized units in existing buildings. We have already seen how well that system has worked. There is not going to be any new construction of affordable housing in this budget, no matter what the need. That has already been amply demonstrated.

How can one take this kind of budget seriously? Why bother coming in? I do not think one should have to do one's duty here today. I will be pleased just to stay here and speak to myself. I do not think members should bother bringing themselves in; it is not worth it.

This budget is like living in a cocoon; it is not living in Ontario today. It certainly is not living in the Ontario that I see in my riding. If it is, then it is fundamentally immoral. If the Treasurer recognizes the problems out there are as I am saying they are, then this is an immoral budget and he should be ashamed of himself. He should not get up with his supercilious grins and his little chucklings to answer questions or not answer questions during question period. He should be ashamed of it, but he is not; he is as proud as a little peacock about the whole damned thing.

The next person who came in to see me—this is a one-evening snapshot for members—was a father who could not understand why his son, who had gone to Birchmount Park Collegiate because of its really good shop courses, had gone there only to find out that in grade 10 none of the shop options he wanted was going to be available. There was no explanation; they were just not going to be available.

I was able to tell him why they were not going to be available. As a response to the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions

program the registration for technical courses in Scarborough has dropped 38 per cent. They are shutting down whole shop sections in schools like Birchmount Park Collegiate that concentrated in those areas in the past. Now if he wants to get that technical education he is going to have to go halfway across Scarborough to get it; he is not going to be able to go to his own local high school.

So much for the economic transformation, the need for more skilled workers in our society. This is a kid who wants that kind of existence and it is nowhere there for him.

I tried to explain this to his father. He asked: "Why did the school not tell me in advance this was going to be the case so I could at least have planned for him to go to another school before this? Why could I not have known?" The answer is that the school boards did not know what the effects of OSIS were going to be, just as the government does not know what its effects are going to be. This kid now has no idea what he is going to do. His father went away shaking his head and wondering what was actually going on in government planning.

The next person who came in was a woman from an Opportunities for Advancement group in Scarborough, family benefits women who are doing their best to get off that reliance on social assistance and to get back into the work force. She was talking about her difficulties in attending school to get upgrading to grade 9, 10 and 11, because she had only a grade 6 education.

She had applied to a community college, but the community college told her there would be no Ontario student assistance this year, it had been cut off, and that if she were to go for that kind of academic upgrading to a community college she would have to go through the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.

She went to CEIC and was told she could put her name on the list, but all the seats were taken for those courses for the next year and a half and it would be at least four semesters before she would be able to enter the basic upgrading program. Her only choice was to take it through the local high school, which would probably mean it would take three years to do it instead of the kind of upgrading we have in our community colleges, which sometimes takes only a year these days.

Her difficulty was that she lives in the north part of Scarborough and the school that provides this program is down at the border between the riding of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) and my riding, at the very

south end of our ridings. It takes about an hour to get there by bus and there is little provision in the way of day care.

12:30 p.m.

She was asking me: "How can I afford to go to school when there is no financial assistance for me to go because it is at the secondary level and not at the post-secondary level? I cannot find day care to keep my child while I get this upgrading and, quite frankly, I cannot even afford to buy a Metropass so I could go five days a week."

I would love the Treasurer of Ontario to explain to me what is in this budget for her. He may say there is \$1.2 million in here. He will not dare to say it is additional money, new this year, but it is just a continuation of what was going on last year to help family benefits recipients who want to get off assistance and get out to have day care assistance. He knows full well what that is about.

It is almost all concentrated in the areas where the family benefits and general welfare integration programs are taking place and it is invariably private home day care, often in an unsupervised fashion and without standards, that is being provided. It is like leaving one's child with a friend and hoping the child will be receiving the kind of assistance and stimulation one would want and expect if he were in a group day care situation.

There is going to be an increase of 1,500 subsidized day care spaces. That is the other thing that perhaps this woman will get in this budget. As the last speaker said, the demand across the province for subsidized spaces is enormous. In Toronto alone, there are 1,714 spaces requested of the government. They say they need that many. We are being offered 1,500 in total.

There are probably as many as 4,000 to 5,000 needed immediately around the province. I wonder how many of the municipalities are going to pick up on subsidized day care increases as their emphasis in the coming year, when they have been told by the Treasurer they must not increase their budgets, even to the level of inflation.

How many of those communities, given that kind of ultimatum, are going to have to cut back on existing programs to meet the requirements of the tight-fisted Treasurer of Ontario? How many of them are actually going to expand into new day care facilities? How many of them are going to offer more subsidized spaces?

The economic reality for a lot of day care operators today is they cannot afford more

subsidized spaces. Day care facilities run by municipalities are often running at 80 per cent subsidization instead of the 50:50 rate we hoped for initially. They are providing day care for the poor only.

The other operations are so dependent on full-paying customers, because of a lack of basic funding formula for day care, that they cannot afford to have more subsidized day care spaces. More subsidized day care spaces will increase their deficits and mean they have to lay off people. In many places they are not filling subsidized spaces they actually have because it is economically impossible for them to do so.

What are we going to hear from the Treasurer in another few months? "I offered 1,500 and they would not take them. They did not need them." That is the kind of thing we are going to hear from him, when it is because of the way it has been dealt with.

The likelihood of this woman receiving that kind of assistance is very small. The reality of what is taking place in Metropolitan Toronto is that the pressure is so severe on the need for subsidized spaces that our municipality is now in the process of putting down new terms for who will qualify for subsidized day care. We should forget what is in the ministry manual and the regulations of the ministry about who can apply and who can be eligible. They will never say that if they let all those people who are eligible on the list, the waiting list would be far too long and they would never get them in.

In reality, they are going to make it tougher and tougher for people to be eligible for subsidization. Only the poorest of the poor are going to be eligible. That means all the other people—the working poor, middle- and low-income people—who basically cannot afford more than \$100 a week in day care costs are now going to be required to pay the full amount and will not even be eligible for subsidization.

A day care worker said to me the other day it was like providing a pail of water to somebody whose house is on fire. It is nice to have it, but by God, it is not going to do any good at all.

The acting Speaker is from Markham. If he would like to, I invite him to take a different route home from the one he normally takes. He should drive along Eglinton Avenue through my riding. Between Pharmacy and Birchmount, he will see four or five factories closed down, the latest being Canadian General Electric. General Motors is doing very well, but Alcan has some problems at the moment. The old SKF plant, which used to have very highly paid workers, is

now being used for bank workers who are paid at a much lower rate. It is a combination of desolation row and a deterioration of the skilled work force base and industrial base in that part of my riding. That is the reality of what I see in Scarborough.

I look at this budget. What has been done to get CGE open, not as a mass food terminal for Knob Hill Farms, which is the suggestion, but as a major industrial plant again, providing work for people at decent wages? What is being done for the 36 per cent of the SKF workers who have been out of work for two years and whose average age is now 53? Nothing is being done.

The last speaker talked about the supposed money for retraining for older workers and women, and how much of that is really new money. Virtually none is. It is money that has been there in the past. Those people have still been unemployed for two and a half years. That money has not touched their lives.

Let me talk about their lives and why this budget either cannot be taken seriously or must be attacked in the most vicious terms. It has to be laughed at or it brings one to a boiling point. I see families who have lived in Scarborough for 25 or 26 years, since it began to develop as a major urban community. Those families are falling apart. Fathers who have been out of work for a period of time had never been unemployed in their lives. They may have been on strike twice in the whole history of the plant, once for six months and the other time very briefly.

They had a good, solid life, with wages around \$11 an hour, which is not great in the spectrum one can see in the work force, but it is pretty good. There was not a bad pension plan. At 54 years of age, they are now sitting at home wondering what their future is going to be, ineligible for welfare because they still have some savings and their wives are working part-time. Some wives are holding down two part-time jobs.

Their health is deteriorating. I invite the members to look at the report done by Dr. Paul Grayson on the deterioration in health of these workers in the last two years. Their kids are rebelling against them, not just the normal adolescent rebellion against parents, but because their fathers have lost their sense of self-worth. Their children are reinforcing that by saying: "The other guys' dads are able to work, are out there earning a living. They are providing. You are telling me I cannot go on a school trip because you cannot afford the five bucks. Everybody else can do it. You are a failure as a father."

12:40 p.m.

These people come into my office and some of them cry. They cannot get access to their pension plans because they left them there, presuming, as most of them did, they would be re-employed because they were skilled workers. They cannot get welfare. They ask: "Why have I been paying taxes for the last 25 years? What does this society owe me?" The Treasurer has told them what he thinks it owes them—nothing. It does not owe them a thing, as long as the rest of us are getting by okay, as long as the majority can feel they are being protected and are not going the way of the SKF or the Canadian General Electric workers, as long as they feel they are going to be all right, there is no need to do too much for this guy. It does not matter if his world is falling apart. It does not matter if everything is disintegrating around him. That is what the Treasurer's view of social transformation is at the moment in our society.

We have a pittance in this budget to put forward to meet it. It is not just in my riding; it is across the province. The wonderful resurgence in the auto industry is true. Look at Windsor. There are 18,000 people still unemployed there. Although the auto production is way up, the number of workers is not.

When I was in Windsor, the families there did not want to talk any more. They knew what it was like to be down because they had been down so long. They just wanted to look at the good side, the production side. They did not want to look at the fact that the number of people going to credit counselling is as high as it has ever been, or that their debt loads were higher than they had ever been, or that the number of kids going in for meals in the Catholic school system has quadrupled in the last two years. They did not want to talk about that. They did not want to look at it any more.

That is exactly what this budget is reaffirming. In it the government is saying: "Do not look at the underside of Ontario, the other Ontario that is out there. Let us just put out a series of really neat-sounding programs with no money in them and be happy we have not increased the deficit. Let us pretend we have not taxed the poorest in our society by adding OHIP premiums on to them or having ad valorem taxes. Let us play out the charades. Let us see how well we can play the political game. On the first day after the budget, when it is the opposition's day to get at it, let us blunt that by appointing Ken Dryden as youth commissioner. That will really interrupt the normal flow of how we get attacked. That will be

a really clever media thing to do." It was. It was brilliant.

Fundamentally, it ignores the fact of this reality. Either we in this House are so shut off from what is happening out there that we cannot understand it and cannot relate to it, or the Treasurer, in absentia, sees it and chooses to ignore it. He chooses to abandon these people further.

It is not just him and it is not just this government. It is happening in governments all across this country, in this nation and in the nation south of us. In ethical terms this notion is the acceptability of the politics of abandonment. That is reinforced in this legislation. I find it incredibly upsetting.

I presume there are others who would like to participate. I will just deal with one last thing, and there are so many things which offend me in terms of the lack of seriousness.

In the fall I raised the need to raise the minimum wage. The government responded with a two-stage implementation which would bring the lowest-paid workers in our society up to a minimum salary of about \$160 a week by October 1984. In my view, \$160 a week is no kind of base for people to get by on.

If the government is saying it wants people to work and believes the work ethic is important to our sense of values, and I do not think there is anybody in this House who would say it is not, then, as I said to the Treasurer in April, if he was saying \$160 was all the government could give, we should look at some supplementary aid for those people that would really make them feel as if it was worth their while to be out participating in the system and going through all the insecurities that lower-wage earners have in our society and not to go on to social welfare.

There might be a number of private programs we make available to people on social assistance we could make available to those individuals, whether it is access to drug cards or various other kinds of things I suggested, and I will not enumerate them all again, at the moment.

I said, "But at least the one thing you must do is address the fact that because you have given them this increase, many of them are now not going to be eligible for full premium assistance and some of these families are actually going to have to pay the whole shot."

What did the Treasurer do? Not only did he not change the level at which people could come in on premium assistance, but he also increased the premium, which means the working poor in our society are now going to get doubly hit. They are

going to get hit with a tax they have never had to pay before because it was pretty much tied to their level of income.

Let us face it. The last time we had an increase in the level of premium assistance was about the same time the minimum wage last went up. There is an understanding that those things should be tied together in some way. Instead, those people who, three months ago, would not have had to pay OHIP premiums are now going to have to pay from \$86 to \$714 out of their new increases in order to satisfy the government of Ontario. That is fundamentally unfair.

For people to understand what we are talking about, for us in this House—whether we are regular members at our \$45,000 level or cabinet people at whatever it is, \$60,000 or \$65,000, or leaders of the parties, with the money we have here and our wonderful plush blue seats and the comforts of our oak-carved surroundings—if we take any poverty level, the guidelines of the Canadian Council on Social Development, Statistics Canada or the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, whatever we wish to take, people on the poverty line in Ontario, no matter what their family status is, whether they are single, with one kid, two kids or three kids, they all have to pay premiums. What kind of sense of social justice is that?

The Treasurer has the gall to come back and say that if we gave those people a break, we would then have to charge them income taxes in order to pay for it. Well, garbage we would. We in this House could assume more taxes. Part of our income that is nontaxable at the moment could become taxable. Perhaps those who are benefiting so well in our society could pay for it. There is no reason at all for the working poor in our society to have to pay at all. That is so much garbage that is being perpetrated. It is the kind of flim-flammy and political games-playing that always takes place in this House, in part of this House. It has nothing to do with reality.

I would like members on the other side to think what it is like to live in Toronto today with a family of four on a \$19,000 income. They should think about their aspirations and their view of the world, about their houses or my house, about the amount of money I am paying on mortgages alone at the moment in comparison with what those people are bringing in as total income in a given month.

The government is suggesting for all the people in that situation, and there are a lot of them, that it was all right to bring in this kind of budget, that this budget was adequate for 1984. I

suggest it is fundamentally offensive to all those people to suggest that.

Why could we not have a larger deficit at this point? If we believe the Treasurer when he says there is going to be recovery, which is not going to be held down by another interest rate spiral, why not build a little bit of investment in people into this budget? Why not go into a bit more deficit to help them? To ignore that and to have the gall to put the title of Economic Transformation on this little, puffy, bit of nonsense we were handed out on Tuesday, in my view, is one of the most obscene things to have taken place in this Legislature for a long time.

12:50 p.m.

It may be I have been too long with my nose in poverty issues and I cannot see beyond them to the glorious ascension of the working class into the sharing of the great benefits of our society through the natural development of our economy. It may be I am becoming myopic in my concerns about those people who are less well-off in our society and I cannot see that the wonderful initiatives for breaks for small business are exactly what it is going to take to get all those people employed and sharing in the wonderful wealth of Ontario. But I do not believe that. I believe what we are seeing instead is the perpetration of an ethic that is fundamentally destructive to our society, and that is that those who have get to keep and those who do not have will not get to have.

If we maintain this kind of attitude, I suggest we are going to see a society that is divided, with the rich living in their sumptuous surroundings behind gates that are locked and walls that are high with glass or barbed wire on the top of them and with guard dogs behind the walls—as a friend of mine does, for instance, in Kingston, Jamaica, at the moment. He locks up his house every night, locks up individual parts of his house and lies with a gun under his pillow to preserve the wealth he has while the poor roam the streets.

That may seem a very farfetched notion in Ontario with all its wealth, but any continuation of this kind of nonaddressing of the issues is going to mean those divisions will increase, and as those divisions increase in our society, so will the ultimate destruction of our notions of democracy and of real sharing.

I therefore believe the Treasurer should either come into this House and speak with us seriously about these kinds of issues or he should state very clearly to us he does not believe them to be the case and they do not need addressing. Then we can just let this budget go and realize that it is

irrelevancy itself personified, and we can go on with some other kind of business in this House, whatever it would be.

Surely we are in danger of becoming a Star Chamber, a totally removed group that has no connection with the people who elect us and who depend on us to bring social justice to the society. We might as well adjourn tomorrow and go home for the summer if this is all we can say to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, my view of the provincial budget is more optimistic than that of the members opposite and, I firmly believe, closer to the sentiments of the people we represent in Ontario. This year's budget contains much we can praise already, but I agree with those who have stated it is also a budget for the future and a positive one.

With this budget the government has clearly shown it recognizes Ontario is undergoing an economic transformation. At a time when the official opposition is calling for government make-work programs, the rest of Ontario, under the leadership of the Premier (Mr. Davis), has decided to face the challenges of the future. While members opposite here call for quick-fix solutions and subsidies for entire sectors of our economy, we on this side of the House know that government must do more than hand out money. At a time when our economy is emerging from a difficult period, it is especially important for government to work with other sectors in providing leadership, help and encouragement. This budget is a clear example that we are doing just that.

We are providing leadership by our long-standing policy of fiscal restraint and through the introduction of new and forward-looking programs. We are providing help to those individuals, communities, regions and sectors that have suffered more in recent years than we have here in this House. We are providing encouragement to the entrepreneurs and industries that will provide for our continued, further prosperity.

The budget abounds with examples. The fiscal plan for 1984-85 recognizes that the provincial deficit does not have to rise as it did in previous years when this was necessary to help the economy and people of Ontario to weather the recession. While revenue is expected to grow by 9.6 per cent during this fiscal year, cash requirements are expected to be 13.2 per cent lower. Politically, it would have been tempting to spend more money while heeding the cries of the opposition that times are still terrible and governments should still continue to spend.

Instead, the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and this government have chosen to recognize there have been improvements and that the Ontario economy continues to recovery from the recession.

The figures show we can expect a 4.7 per cent increase in real economic growth and an even larger increase of 8.9 per cent in the growth of personal income. With these expectations, good sense would dictate the time has arrived to reduce government deficits and this government, through the Treasurer, is displaying that good sense.

It may have seemed reasonable for the Treasurer to stop there and say the province could now return to business as usual. However, that would have meant we would be ignoring that we are truly undergoing an economic transformation in Ontario and that this transformation requires us to help those individuals, communities and sectors hard hit by change.

Employment in Ontario this year is expected to increase by 125,000 jobs. This reinforces our confidence in our economy, but it must not disguise the fact that unemployment is too high and requires energetic and innovative action by government.

Young people have been particularly hard hit by the changes in our economy. They have traditionally experienced higher unemployment rates than the over-25 age group because of less experience and fewer skills. During the recession they were usually the first to be let go and the last to be rehired because of seniority and the familiar reasons of lack of skills and experience.

The recession saw another distinct problem group emerge. This group consists of older workers whose employers have been forced out of business and have laid off workers with little

chance of recall. As these groups emerged and government provided stopgap employment programs, it became quite apparent that new job opportunities were opening up mainly for technologically skilled workers. Young people and laid-off older workers did not possess the skills to fill these jobs and, as a result, new training, retraining and skills upgrading programs were required. This budget continues to meet those requirements in a major and innovative way. Over the next three years the budget will provide for an expenditure of \$600 million to deal specifically with the employment and training requirements of these two groups.

As the Treasurer has said, temporary make-work schemes have been rejected because they do not provide the skills and experience young people need to gain permanent, full-time jobs and careers. Such schemes can be useful in poor economic times, but that is not the major challenge now. Today our challenge is to ensure our young people have the opportunity to receive the skills, training and work experience to meet the demands of the job market.

On motion by Mr. Kolyn, the debate was adjourned.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, before the adjournment of the House, I would like to table the answers to questions 147 to 175, inclusive, 288, 292, 308, 309, 321, 323, 326, 328 to 331, inclusive, and 337 in Orders and Notices and the interim answers to questions 293 and 325 [see appendix, page 1653].

The House adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

147 to 175. Mr. Peterson et al: Would the Premier and all other ministers table the public opinion polls commissioned by the government during the fiscal years 1981-82 and 1982-83? Would they indicate the cost of each poll, the company that took the poll and whether the undertaking was tendered or not? [Tabled March 22, 1984]

Hon. Mr. McCague: The government has listed the polls commissioned during the period April 1, 1981, to May 20, 1982, in answers to previous written questions.

A list of polls commissioned during the period May 20, 1982, to March 1, 1983, which has been neither tabled nor reported to date, is attached. Copies of completed polls will be tabled individually by the ministers involved.

Ministry	Title/Subject Matter	Cost	Company
Agriculture and Food	Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Lands	\$9,500	Environics Research Group Ltd.
	Foodlands Guidelines Study	\$14,950	Environics Research Group Ltd.
	Annual Tracking Study: Survey in 10 centres in Ontario to determine awareness and understanding of the Foodland Ontario program and symbol 1982-83	\$21,650	Market Facts Inc.
	Beef Producers Survey: To test industry conditions-600 producers	\$120,000	Creative Research Ltd.
Citizenship and Culture	Survey of awareness and options concerning Expo 86	\$14,000*	Decima Research Ltd.
	*Costs were charged back to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.		
	Multicultural Background Studies	\$126,915	Environics Research Group Ltd.
Community and Social Services	Parenting, Public Education Campaign: To evaluate the impact of the parenting education campaign on the parents of young children	\$21,000	Longwoods Research Group Ltd.
	Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign	\$7,425	Foster Advertising/ Gallup National Omnibus Study
Energy	Energy Savers Peterborough Phase III	\$12,500	International Surveys Ltd.
	Homeowners and Clinic Visitor Reactions to the 1982 Heat Save project in Barrie	\$7,750	Paul D. Allen and Associates Ltd.

Ministry	Title/Subject Matter	Cost	Company
Government Services	To test public reaction to the existing format and proposed changes to the blue pages in the Bell telephone directory		Total costs in this regard were borne by federal Department of Supply and Services
Health	Health Issues Study	\$56,000	Decima
	Attitudes towards Health and the Health Care System	\$45,435	Complan
Industry and Trade	Shop Canadian Program	\$21,142	Foster Advertising Ltd.
Tourism and Recreation	Update of information regarding physical activity patterns of adults in Ontario	\$5,300	Gallup Omnibus
		\$11,030	Gallup Omnibus
		\$9,880	Gallup Omnibus
	Day After Recall Test on 60-second TV commercial shown in England: To measure impact of the MTR TV commercial	\$6,000	Burke International Research Ltd.
	UK Advertising Research: To determine awareness of and attitude towards the MTR consumer advertising campaign in the United Kingdom	\$36,765	Market Facts of Canada Ltd.
	Price/Value Survey: To measure perceptions of value of Ontario as a vacation destination	\$3,400	Gallup
Treasury and Economics	Attitudes towards the economy in Ontario	\$67,500	Goldfarb
Transportation and Communications	Cable Tiering and Universal Pay TV	\$2,200	Gallup
	Privacy and New TV Cable Services	\$11,800	University of Western Ontario (Dr. N. Vidmar and Dr. D. Flaherty)

ARTS SPENDING SURVEY

288. Mr. Allen: Will the Treasurer table the complete results of the survey cited by his officials in a November 1983 slide presentation to show that 61 per cent of Ontario residents favour cuts in arts spending, together with the complete schedule of questions asked and information on the size and composition of the sample surveyed? What was the total cost of this survey? By whom was it conducted? Why was a copy of this survey and its results not provided to the Special Committee for the Arts when requested by that body to assist in its work? [Tabled April 10, 1984]

337. Mr. Allen: Will the Treasurer table the government survey allegedly revealing that 61

per cent of the public recommended that if reductions were necessary in the Ontario budget, the arts should be the first to be cut, as contended in a November 1983 presentation to senior officials of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, its agencies and representatives of the major performing arts organizations? How much did this survey cost, who conducted it and how large was the sample surveyed? Why were the survey and its results not supplied to the Special Committee for the Arts when requested by that body? [Tabled May 15, 1984]

Hon. Mr. McCague: The querier is referred to those answers which have been tabled in response to other questions concerning public opinion polls.

PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

308. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table the number of adults under loosened Lieutenant Governor's warrants currently in outpatient mental health programs in each provincial psychiatric hospital or other health care facility? [Tabled April 16, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The number of adults under loosened Lieutenant Governor's warrants reported to be in outpatient mental health programs for each provincial psychiatric hospital is:

Brockville Psychiatric Hospital	4
Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital	3
Kingston Psychiatric Hospital	2
Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital	3
London Psychiatric Hospital	11
North Bay Psychiatric Hospital	4
Mental Health Centre, Penetanguishene	0
Queen Street Mental Health Centre	35
St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital	6
Whitby Psychiatric Hospital	3

As well, there is a total of seven adult patients in other health care facilities: one, Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital; three, Royal Ottawa Hospital, and three, Clark Institute of Psychiatry.

309. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table how many patients were placed in each provincial psychiatric hospital under Lieutenant Governor's warrants and, of those, how many are in secure ward settings? [Tabled April 16, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The number of patients placed in each psychiatric hospital, under Lieutenant Governor's warrants, and the number in secure ward settings (for the 12-month period ended March 1984) are:

Facility	No. placed with facility	No. in secure wards
Brockville Psychiatric Hospital	53	53
Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital	3	0
Kingston Psychiatric Hospital	8	4
Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital	2	0
London Psychiatric Hospital	9	0
North Bay Psychiatric Hospital	4	4
Mental Health Centre, Penetanguishene	122	117
Queen Street Mental Health Centre	31	6
St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital	24	18
Whitby Psychiatric Hospital	6	6
Total	262	208

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

321. Mr. Foulds: Would the Minister of Health inform the House of any studies done by the Ministry of Health into the cost of incorporating as a fully insured service under OHIP medically necessary travel, as determined by a qualified physician, for residents of (a) northern Ontario and (b) the entire province? Would the minister table any and all such proposals and documents related to such studies? [Tabled April 24, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The Ministry of Health has not undertaken any study into the cost of incorporating as a fully insured service under OHIP medically necessary travel, as determined by a qualified physician, for residents of (a) northern Ontario and (b) the entire province.

The Ministry of Health provides an ambulance service, not a transportation service. Any consideration of the latter would require a large commitment of resources and would be well beyond the Ministry of Health mandate, which is to provide resources for health services.

HANDICAPPED CLIENTS IN
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

323. Mr. R. F. Johnston: Would the Minister of Correctional Services provide the number of retarded or low intellectual functioning clients of the correctional facilities in the province according to the category of facility, to the age of the clients (i.e. 16-year-olds to 18-year-olds and adults) and, if possible, with a correlation of types and lengths of sentences? [Tabled April 25, 1983]

Hon. Mr. Leluk: The matter of the number of retarded or low intellectual functioning clients in correctional facilities is at present under active review. The Ministry of Correctional Services has established a task force to identify groupings and their percentage profile within the population of persons under its supervision.

While the general mandate of the task force is to decide upon worthwhile divisions and profile composition, it will also address specific groupings including the developmentally, psychologically, physically and/or socially handicapped persons. The members of this committee are developing working definitions for each of the groupings identified as well as the tools and instruments to accomplish this mandate.

It is our intention that once the profile is produced, it will be updated on a regular basis.

The endeavour has been given a high priority within our ministry and should be completed by midsummer.

In addition, I should point out that the staff of our institutions, and in particular the classification staff, have an ongoing process to identify clients with special needs in order to determine the suitability of programs to meet those needs.

One such program is the Thompson House Community Resource Centre, operated by the John Howard Society of Metropolitan Toronto. The centre provides a residential setting on a fee-for-service basis for correctional clients who are socially handicapped, mentally deficient or physically disabled.

The program includes: pre-release planning and implementation of a program that enables and encourages these individuals to develop the necessary skills that will enable them to become self-dependent in the community, and post-release support for those who require ongoing assistance.

FOREST REGENERATION

326. Mr. Laughren: Will the Minister of Natural Resources provide the results of the review undertaken in October 1983 by the task force of the forest resources group pertaining to the procedures and measures of forest regeneration? [Tabled April 27, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Pope: The task force, which reviewed the procedures and measures of assessing forest regeneration, completed and submitted its report in February 1984. The draft recommendations are currently being studied by my senior staff.

HOSPITAL OPERATIONAL REVIEW

328. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table his ministry's review of operation of the Hawkesbury hospital as a result of the takeover by AMI? [Tabled May 1, 1984]

See sessional paper 110.

HOME CARE SERVICE

329. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health provide a list of agencies by municipality that provide nursing and homemaking services under the home care program? Will the minister table

the amount of dollars paid to each agency in the last fiscal year for which figures are available? [Tabled May 1, 1984]

See sessional paper 109.

HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

330. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Community and Social Services provide a list of agencies by municipality and the amount paid to these agencies under the Homemaker and Nursing Services Act in the last fiscal year for which figures are available? [Tabled May 1, 1984]

See sessional paper 108.

LOCKSMITH WORK

331. Mr. Philip: Would the minister provide the House with the following information:

1. What percentage of the total locksmith work done for Metro Toronto Housing Authority has been awarded to one company, Action Locksmith Inc., over the past three fiscal years?

2. During the same period, what is the total dollar value for all such locksmith work done?

3. What is the total amount paid to Action Locksmith Inc. for work done in these years?

4. List each company awarded locksmith work in the last three fiscal years, along with the hourly labour charged by each. [Tabled May 2, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Metro Toronto Housing Authority is a schedule III crown agency operating under procedures established by the authority's board of directors. The ministry does not keep records of its operations.

Inquiries such as this should be directed to: Dr. Albert Rose, Chairman, Metro Toronto Housing Authority, 1370 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 2W4.

INTERIM ANSWERS

293. Mr. T. P. Reid: Hon. Mr. McCague—An answer in this regard will be provided on or about December 31, 1984.

325. Mr. Wrye: Hon. Mr. Drea—Answer to the above question will be provided on or about May 31, 1984.

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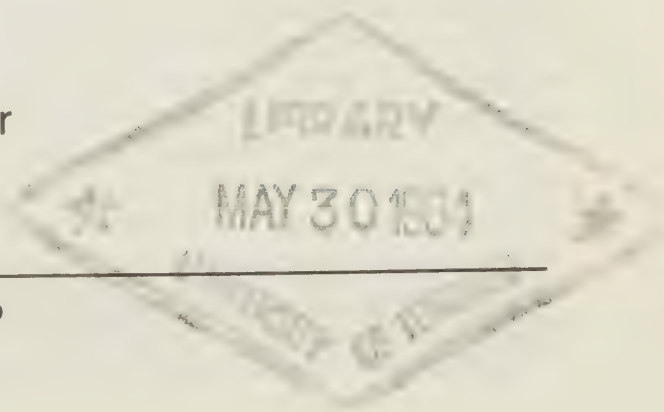
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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, May 22, 1984
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 22, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

CHANGE OF PARTY AFFILIATION

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to inform you that the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen) has now taken a seat on the government side of the House.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1985, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly. Signed John B. Aird, Lieutenant Governor, Toronto, May 22, 1984.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to report on the meeting of Great Lakes environmental administrators from state, provincial and federal jurisdictions which I attended last week.

Mr. Boudria: Do you have something to say about it?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It was a fine meeting. The member should have been there.

The object was to develop a joint Great Lakes agenda to address the central issue of controlling toxic substances. In areas of direct interest to Ontario, the administrators resolved:

1. To explore jointly among the Great Lakes jurisdictions the feasibility of a program to monitor the atmospheric deposition of toxic substances. Michigan agreed to convene a group of technical experts from each jurisdiction to examine the costs and the technical aspects of the proposal.

2. To request the International Joint Commission to step up efforts to examine various approaches to the assessment of risks with toxic substances and the application of knowledge concerning risk tolerance activities.

3. To promote alternatives to landfilling and to encourage development of technologies for reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering waste with particular reference to hazardous wastes.

4. In co-operation with the International Joint Commission's water quality board, to work towards a greater compatibility of fish monitoring data among the jurisdictions to ensure improved human health advisories and increased public knowledge.

As the honourable members are already aware, Ontario has introduced a new initiative to increase the level of protection in the western section of the Great Lakes. The St. Clair-Detroit rivers improvement team will co-ordinate the assessment of environmental quality in these water bodies and Lake St. Clair, and make recommendations for future monitoring and control measures. The new team will bring a new and sharper focus to our activities in this part of the Great Lakes. I am confident that its work, in combination with our continuing water quality programs, will equal the performance of our Niagara River improvement team.

These two new initiatives will complement and strengthen my ministry's extensive ongoing programs to protect the important Great Lakes region.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure as Minister of Colleges and Universities to inform the House that, following upon our earlier announcement that we would be providing \$31.1 million to the University of Waterloo for the construction of a new building for that university's Institute for Computer Research—the entire project to cost something in the area of \$45 million—we have information that attests to the wisdom of that decision and augurs well for the future of the University of Waterloo and, indeed, for the future of our province and the economy of Canada in general.

I am pleased to report to the House that the University of Waterloo and Digital Equipment of Canada Ltd. of Kanata have recently announced the signing of an agreement for a joint scientific and research development program estimated to involve a total of approximately \$65 million. To

our knowledge, this is the largest agreement in history between one university and a single computer equipment supplier, not just in Canada but anywhere in the world. I know of one other such agreement that involves a comparable amount of money, but I am informed that in essence it involves two agreements, although they both pertain to one university. Those agreements are in the United States.

Initially, Digital will provide the University of Waterloo with up to \$25 million worth of computer equipment including 15 large-scale VAX, virtual address extension, systems and 2,000 work stations. This equipment will greatly expand the university's ability to do work in such important areas as pattern analysis, which is integral to the advancement of the science of robotics; VLSI, very large-scale integration, which is equally important in the microchip field, as well as in other areas, many of them related to fourth- and even fifth-generation computer environments, including artificial intelligence, logic programming and expert systems.

The University of Waterloo has work under way in all these areas, as well as in computer communications, educational software and a wide variety of other computer-related fields. We have every reason to expect the university will benefit a great deal from this very significant agreement and will be able to achieve new levels of excellence in the future. Obviously, Digital Equipment shares this view fully.

2:10 p.m.

I think it is significant that, even as the \$65-million Digital-Waterloo agreement was being announced, there came as well information from the United Kingdom that the University of Waterloo has been selected to prepare the software for the computerization of the Oxford English Dictionary. This involves an agreement with Oxford University Press that is worth about \$6 million to the University of Waterloo. Waterloo, I might say, has been selected in a competition that included other universities and several firms of computer experts from the private sector from all over the world.

The selection of the University of Waterloo attests to the reputation this institution has won for itself for quality computer software research over the past few years. It also attests to the scholarship and the computer awareness of the university's nontechnology areas, including its humanities and social science departments.

The computerization of the Oxford English Dictionary will be a truly mammoth task since it involves the entire vocabulary of the English

language tracing back to 1150 AD and encompassing 12 volumes, 21,000 pages and 60 million words.

Waterloo's involvement will include a worldwide user survey to determine just who uses the Oxford English Dictionary and what the users' needs are. It will also involve creating the day-to-day structure that will form the foundation for many new applications of the computerized new dictionary.

SOCIAL FUNDING

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday my good friend the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. Grossman) introduced his initial provincial budget. Included in the document was a plan to help break the cycle of welfare dependency.

I would like to point out that during the last six months I have been working on and planning with my colleague the provincial Treasurer a viable means of dealing with this major problem. Today I want to advise the Legislature of the thrusts in supporting his statement and to tell honourable members that the days of handouts in the province are over. Thanks to the Treasurer and his budget, we are now able to offer a hand up.

The Treasurer has made \$120 million available to the Ministry of Community and Social Services over the next three years so we can assist those on social assistance who want to overcome welfare dependency; gain experience, employment and training, and participate more fully in our economy.

Members will recall that within the past couple of years my ministry launched a series of employment support initiatives. These have been running in the cities of Peterborough, Thunder Bay and Windsor; the counties of Dufferin and Lanark, and the regional municipalities of Metropolitan Toronto, Ottawa-Carleton, Peel and Waterloo. These initiatives involved personal and pre-employment counselling leading to the development of a plan for economic independence, the provision of child care services and assistance with employment job search and employment-related expenses.

Let me tell members what has been happening. In the very large municipalities, client demand for this service has been so great that several hundred clients are waiting to be seen. In the middle-sized communities, where client numbers are smaller, the demands for service have been steady and most programs are reaching their upward limits. As for the small centres, Lanark

For example, has already assisted 24 clients to attain full-time employment.

There is no letup in the demand for service or in the achievement of success by our clients. I am confident that when we receive the first-quarter results of this year we will see a continuation of this successful trend. A message is being relayed to us and it is fairly easy to comprehend: our clients prefer employment to social assistance. The work ethic is alive, well and prospering in Ontario.

The overwhelming response to the employment support initiatives has prompted us to proceed with the enrichment of the existing ones and the introduction of approximately 12 new programs strategically selected across Ontario. That amounts to about 5,000 additional single parents.

This is just the beginning of a planned expansion of these initiatives that will eventually see these services being offered across the province to every recipient who wishes to participate. I will outline further details at the annual meeting of the Ontario Municipal Social Service Association in Sarnia in a few weeks and extend more invitations to municipalities to join us.

Let me re-emphasize that these initiatives could not have been put in place without the foresight of the Treasurer, who paid particular interest to those on social assistance.

This is the first in a series of initiatives I intend to announce. Today I am dealing specifically with the enrichment and expansion of the employment support initiatives program benefiting the single parent. In due time I will deal with the other initiatives announced in the budget, including those for youth.

Earlier today I met with a number of single parents, counsellors and representatives from agencies in the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. They confirmed what I have just shared with the Legislature; that is, they enjoy working. Until now, we knew these programs were needed. Now we know they are wanted and they are working.

When we first began two years ago, we invited a number of municipalities to participate in a noncompulsory campaign to assist single parents receiving social assistance to secure full-time employment.

My ministry staff joined with their counterparts in the municipalities to implement a series of innovative projects. These were designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of integrating the delivery of family benefits to single parents with

the delivery of social services by municipalities, combined with an employment support initiative package. I should point out these municipalities were assisted by staff from my ministry in developing program proposals and implementation plans.

The first project started in November 1982 with the remainder in full operation by early spring of last year. We gave these projects a minimum trial or test period of 12 months; however, we extended the operations of integration and employment support services to the end of the calendar year. This extra period was intended to provide the time required for reporting, for consultation and dialogue, and for planning and decision-making.

As the members may know, we established a joint steering committee, with representation from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the test municipalities and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This committee has been monitoring the projects and is responsible for the evaluation which has started. The data being collected, the analysis and the critical report-writing steps of this process are currently under way.

I expect the final report to be available within the next few months. At this time, it would be premature for me to anticipate the findings, but I am pleased to say the preliminary information is most encouraging. The response to the employment initiatives has exceeded our expectations in almost every location. About 8,000 sole-support parents on family benefits were served by the integration component of the projects. The duplication in documentation involved in transferring clients from one system to the other has been virtually eliminated.

As of the end of January 1984, the time taken between applying for general welfare assistance and the granting of family benefits to qualified recipients has been greatly reduced. It dropped from an average of 14 weeks at the beginning to between four and six weeks. I am sure the members will agree this is a very important improvement in service to the client and also that it benefits the municipal taxpayer.

Our friends in the municipalities have told us the improved stability in the relationship between client and case worker, due to not transferring between systems, is a great benefit. Clients appear to respond better to the opportunity for independence available through employment support services the sooner these are offered after

the event that necessitated their applying for income maintenance.

Here are some rather interesting and impressive statistics. By the end of 1983, more than 5,000 clients initiated contact with the nine projects. More than 3,000 have actively participated and have already designed personal plans which, if followed through, should eventually result in full-time employment and economic independence.

In a weak economy with high unemployment, about 500 people obtained full-time work by the end of last year. Approximately the same number achieved part-time employment. Those who are not yet employed are either pursuing upgrading or training or are in the process of looking for jobs. We have had ongoing discussions with staff in all nine projects and the information we are getting back is good.

More important are the people. Let me take a moment to tell members how some of those people feel.

A woman from Ottawa, in an emotional response, said that for two years she had been walking a number of miles back and forth to an adult day school. She had found it very time-consuming and discouraging, particularly in bad weather. She wanted to express how grateful she was that this program had been established as it meant she could now afford to purchase a monthly bus pass. She is now pursuing courses that will gain her useful employment.

A Thunder Bay woman wrote to us to say: "Today I am working full-time and it is wonderful to feel whole again and a functioning member of our community. It has done wonders for my self-esteem, not to mention that I rather enjoy paying income tax again. I look forward to each new working day."

Then there is the comment from a grade 12 student who will soon begin a horticulture course. She said, "If it was not for this program, I would still be sitting at home twiddling my thumbs."

2:20 p.m.

There is success out there. Single-parent recipients are waiting in line to participate. The figures continue to swell. People want to get involved.

Three years ago the women I spoke to today were consigned to a life of dependency on welfare. Today they are full of hope; they are full of ambition and confidence that, given the chance by this government, they are not only

going to be self-sufficient but also will contribute enormously to the community.

The Treasurer's budget only underlines the determination of this government to assist all in our society, where there will be opportunity for all and a quality of life second to none.

Mr. Speaker: There seem to be an awful lot of private conversations, making it difficult to hear the minister's statement. I ask all honourable members to please co-operate and not carry on private conversations in the House.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think one of the problems, if I may bring it to your attention, sir, is that for ministerial statements we are not used to having these long speeches. While it is always a pleasure to listen to the honourable minister, why does he not make a speech during the budget debate and make a statement during statements?

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of order; so I have to rule the honourable member as being out of order.

DIVING SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the House, indeed to all residents of this province, a subject of growing personal concern regarding our most precious resource, our young people.

Tragically, Ontario has the second-highest rate of spinal cord injury in the world resulting from careless diving accidents. There has been an alarming 264 per cent increase in this type of accident in 10 years, resulting in quadriplegia and paraplegia. In 1979, the last year for which total Ontario statistics on diving accidents are available, 54 spinal injuries were recorded. In 1983 the Toronto Sunnybrook Medical Centre alone had 16 cases of spinal cord injury resulting from diving accidents.

I make this statement today because these disturbing statistics call for greater public awareness of these facts and of this issue.

Although any person who dives should be aware of this risk, there are approximately 1.4 million males in this province between the ages of 13 and 30, who, statistically speaking, are particularly at risk from careless diving accidents.

In an effort to warn the public about the dangers inherent in a careless dive, and in co-operation with water safety organizations, diving associations and swimming pool manufacturers, my ministry will launch a full-scale public awareness campaign for the summer of 1984.

Briefly, this campaign will include a television public service announcement featuring 21-year-old Gary Stockfish of Sault Ste. Marie, a young man confined to a wheelchair as a result of a diving accident at a friend's cottage.

To complement this announcement, we have prepared posters, kits for teachers and librarians and a media kit to include information on diving instruction and appropriate action to be taken if one of these tragic accidents occurs.

We plan a wide distribution of the material through schools, public swimming pools, Liquor Control Board of Ontario outlets, the provincial parks system and the media. The member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria), in a thoughtful note to me a moment ago, suggested constituency offices could also receive this material. I think that is a good suggestion and we will do it.

It is my hope that with the commendable assistance received from water safety groups, along with the support and encouragement of the medical community, this public awareness campaign on unsafe diving will result in a measurable reduction in the number of diving accidents this summer and every summer thereafter.

I would like at this time to express my thanks and a warm welcome to two of my guests in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker. They are Mr. Gary Stockfish from Sault Ste. Marie and Dr. Charles Tator, head of the acute spinal cord injury unit at the Toronto Sunnybrook Medical Centre. Dr. Tator's in-depth studies in the area of aquatic spinal injuries have highlighted the urgent need for this campaign. May we recognize our guests.

BIRTH OF MEMBER'S SON

Mr. Bradley: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw to the attention of the House some good news today that some members may not be aware of. The member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) had some very good news to give to those of us in the opposition. He is the proud father of his third son, Colin; eight pounds, 13 ounces. We congratulate him.

Mr. Conway: Let it be said, Mr. Speaker, that on this day, May 22, 1984, there is at least one legitimate new Tory in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I must take issue with the point raised by my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) with respect to the minister's announcement today. I thought it was completely in order. Any time the Conservatives come to the conclusion that people like to work,

it is a stunning road-to-Damascus conversion for them and indeed great news in this House.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: If I was the leader of that party, I would say that too. The member's party opposed all of this two years ago on the front steps of the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Having said that, we will get on with oral questions.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Environment. The minister attended for some short time the transboundary—

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: Can you contain them, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: As I said before, a lot of private conversations are going on and this is having a disturbing influence on the House. I would ask all members to co-operate.

Mr. McClellan: It is a disturbing day.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not really. It is only Tuesday.

Mr. Peterson: You are right, Mr. Speaker, but you must admit it is strange.

I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. The minister attended for a short time the transboundary air pollution educational and cultural exchange in the United States. He was accompanied by some of his colleagues in this House. We have been discussing for some time the lack of credibility that Ontario has because of the increase of sulphur dioxide emissions coming directly from Ontario Hydro, which is exclusively under the authority of this government.

We brought to his attention before the comments of Congressman Dingell. He felt Ontario's credibility was impugned because of the minister's decision to scrub the scrubbers. Is the minister prepared now to admit that he is indeed suffering a lack of credibility in that forum? I ask him that in light of the comments of Senator Percy in that regard. He said, "Canada is moving backward on the problem of acid rain." He was pointing specifically to the performance of Ontario Hydro.

The minister has defended our record. He has said he has attended meetings in the United States, spoken to congressmen, senators, environmental protection agencies, the coal lobby and environmental groups, and not once was the question raised with him. Is he prepared to admit

now that his credibility and that of the government are at issue? Is he prepared to change his philosophy and the programs with respect to the installation of scrubbers on Ontario Hydro?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the question from the Leader of the Opposition because it is a very important question. I also welcome this opportunity to respond.

The reality is that during the course of my stay in Springfield, Illinois, the discussions I had with the American representatives, who included some of the congressmen and senators from that region, were most positive. Regretfully, the issue to which the member refers, which was later raised by Senator Percy, was brought up in my absence. I was required to attend another meeting in Michigan. I am pleased to say, however, a contingent of the Ontario Legislature remained in Springfield to discuss some of these very important issues of sulphur dioxide emissions.

The Leader of the Opposition will be pleased to know that, according to the observers at the meeting who heard the remarks of an Ontario legislative representative, one of the strongest defences was put by my critic the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston). He was very effective in indicating exactly what Ontario has done. The Leader of the Opposition would have been proud of that member in his defence of our policy.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, had the minister been able to remain there with the rest of us, who were working very hard at this two- or three-day conference, he might have noted we were detracting from the way the material was presented by the senator to take a particular view on one corporate polluter. I was embarrassed by the way that particular arm of the Ontario government was used as a dagger at the very heart of our argument about acid rain and its curtailment in North America—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Elston: I want the minister to promise us he will fulfil the promise the Premier (Mr. Davis) made not very long ago to install scrubbers on some of our largest Ontario Hydro emitters so we will not suffer embarrassment again in an international forum.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I should enlighten the member that at no time, to the best of my knowledge, did the Premier promise scrubbers. At no time have I promised scrubbers. I have indicated—

Mr. Foulds: Two scrubbers for one.

Mr. Eakins: The member for Brock (Mr. Welch) told the minister that.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It must be feeding time over there. I realize there are certain apprehensions on the other side of the floor today, but I will do my best to explain this very complicated issue if I can.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They are nervous.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: They are probably very nervous.

The government of Ontario through my ministry has indicated that Ontario Hydro will be able to realize two objectives with respect to sulphur dioxide controls, one in 1986 and the other in 1990. Ontario Hydro, both verbally and in writing, has given its commitment to me directly that it will meet those two commitments with respect to sulphur dioxide abatement.

We have not dictated the technology. It has never been part of our requirement that scrubbers or any alternative form of technology be mandatory for Ontario Hydro. We are looking for the least-cost options that are available to Ontario Hydro so they will not affect the Hydro bills of the people of this province in an adverse fashion. I hope I have made that clear to the members opposite.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, the minister is correct in that the members of this House would have been proud of both the opposition members who were in Illinois last week. The opposition members were left to come to the defence of this government. The situation with Ontario Hydro is helping this province to lose its battle with the American jurisdictions—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Charlton: The minister is fully aware, no doubt, that the electioneering politicians in the US jurisdictions are going to use the Ontario Hydro emissions against us in terms of our ability to see those jurisdictions reduce their emissions substantially. Is the minister prepared to stop sounding like Senator Charles Percy when he talks about Ontario Hydro and get on with the job of reducing significantly Ontario Hydro emissions through the installation of scrubbers so we can win this perceptual battle with the jurisdictions across the border?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to get another question on this issue because I think it does require some debate to understand the issue in detail.

The reality is that my ministry has never at any time dictated the technology, whether it be

scrubbers or any alternative; I have tried to make that clear. We have indicated what the levels of emissions are to be by 1986 and 1990. We have commitments in that respect.

I do not think we should be taken down the garden path with respect to comments made by a senator from Illinois who is representing coal interests and who made it abundantly clear he was not going to cost the state of Illinois jobs in coal areas in order to preserve the environment of Ontario.

The member should join with us in fighting that battle because he knows full well that Senator Percy is doing nothing other than raising a political red herring to justify his own position. It has nothing whatever to do with what Ontario is doing, and he is not winning the battle.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall, or at least he will probably have received reports from his officials with respect to the last two days of our visit there, that an overwhelming number of comments were made that only through regulation will the technology come about. I was very pleased to admire the tenacity with which two of his officials, Tom Brydges and David Balsillie, represented their ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Elston: I would like the minister to comment on the fact that in the past he has rewritten or reworded regulations in order to allow different levels of emissions to be made not only by Ontario Hydro but certainly by other polluters in the province. I would like to have the minister's undertaking at this time that there will be no rewriting of these orders or regulations to allow heavier emissions than are required under the current guidelines of the ministry's program of action.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I can give that undertaking. We have no interest at the present time and, frankly, we have had no discussion with respect to relaxing the guidelines or the regulations that apply to Ontario Hydro. We fully intend, in concert with my colleague the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes), to see that it meets its commitments, and we will fulfil the obligations we have already stated publicly in that respect.

[Later]

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I rise, if I may, to correct the record. Earlier this afternoon I suggested that the Premier had personally promised to install two scrubbers.

I will read for you the brief segment upon which I based that. He said: "My government

remains firmly committed to having Ontario Hydro reduce the acid gas emissions from its coal-fired generating stations by half by the year 1990."

He went on to say: "Hydro will undertake whatever steps are necessary to meet the emission levels stipulated in the government's regulations. These steps will include designing and retrofitting scrubbers, installing some 700 special burners"—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Elston: This was not said directly, but—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would just point out to the honourable member that he may correct his own record but not the record of others.

Mr. Nixon: That is what he is doing.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I heard what he said.

Mr. Nixon: This is the record.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: What is the matter with that?

Mr. Speaker: Nothing.

Mr. Nixon: What kind of advice are you giving?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to argue about it.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I was speaking—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know exactly what you were doing.

Mr. Elston: You say I was not correcting my own record. I was merely indicating—

Mr. Speaker: No, you were going on to quote directly from what the Premier had said on an earlier occasion, which had no bearing on what you had said.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. The minister will be aware that we in the House have been discussing technical and vocational training in the province and that we have warned her in the past about what is happening in this regard, particularly with respect to the potential layoff of many teachers.

On April 9 the minister said that if information about declining enrolment in grade 9 technical classes were factual, it would be of some concern. The best evidence today as presented by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, unless the minister has better information, is that enrolments in technical education may be down by 20.5 per cent, enrolments in vocational education may be down by 16.1 per cent and enrolments in business education may be down by 11 per cent.

Given the commitment of her colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) to economic transformation putting, as he does, a high premium on education in technical and vocational areas, and given the fact that we now have this evidence—better evidence, at least, than the minister has presented—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: —that we are running into a major problem with respect to technical and vocational training in this province, is she prepared as the minister responsible to back off on her jamming of the Ontario Schools: Intermediate and Senior Divisions guidelines down the throat of the system without consultation, which will put in jeopardy vocational and technical training in this province? Is she prepared to make that commitment now?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition should suggest there was no consultation. There was a year of consultation with the secondary school teachers of this province from the time of the response to the secondary education review project until the OSIS document was ready, and there have been consultations since then.

There have indeed been further discussions with boards. Boards were given the option to determine whether they would introduce OSIS this year or in September 1984, or whether they would delay it.

Mr. Bradley: That is nonsense.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not nonsense; that is the truth.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Never mind the interjections.

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If the honourable member does not know the difference between truth and nonsense, he should not be in this House.

We have continued that consultation and we have had meetings with OSSTF. Some interesting information has come out of its assessment of approximately 300 schools. There are some indications that worry me because they relate to the way in which the OSIS guidelines are being implemented in the various institutions where principals are demanding or boards are suggesting that all the mandatory credits be achieved in the first two years. That frequently puts an undue burden on the selection process or the choice that is left up to students. We feel very strongly—

Mr. Wrye: It is the minister's fault.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of course, it is my fault. Everything is my fault; I know. None the less, we have been having those discussions with OSSTF.

Mr. T. P. Reid: It is the fault of the Premier (Mr. Davis).

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is the fault of the Premier—anything at all.

Those doomsayers and naysayers on the opposite side—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary, please.

Mr. Peterson: The minister chooses to blame the Premier, and I am not sure she is wrong in that regard, or blame the principals or someone else. The fact is that now she is responsible.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: She has created apoplexy in the system. I have attended many meetings across this province where technical teachers who were recruited from industry to teach are now probably going to be laid off. She will not be able to wind the system up if it is off the tracks a year or so from now.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: She is creating mayhem in that area.

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, would you please keep some order?

Where is the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen) going? Even he cannot stand it, and I do not blame him.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: She has driven him out of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I presume the Leader of the Opposition does have a question.

Mr. Peterson: I was thrown off by that vision in front of my eyes.

I want to go back to the minister. She may choose to blame all those other people, but the facts are clear in front of her to show that what she hoped to happen is not happening. How much more evidence does she need? How many teachers is she prepared to see laid off? How many programs and shops is she prepared to see cancelled before she is willing to recognize that she has made a fundamental mistake?

How is she going to rectify this? Will she proceed immediately to make sure that those teachers are not laid off and that we have the

programs in place so this province can proceed with its economic transformation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think it is a very clear and conservative medical diagnosis that the only apoplexy that is likely to happen around here is going to be with the Leader of the Opposition if he keeps on distorting the directions that have been taken.

The direction in OSIS and the direction as far as Renewal of Secondary Education is concerned are very much in support of the improvement of educational programs for children studying at the general level and providing greater choice for students in terms of the kinds of opportunities they will have to experience several kinds of educational programs.

There is no doubt that we need to continue the consultation. That was why, as soon as we introduced OSIS, we also introduced an implementation team in the ministry that has been actively travelling the province, gathering information and assisting boards, teachers and principals in the appropriate implementation. That activity will continue.

However, I am not prepared to listen to the very devious and somewhat misleading suggestion—I am sorry; remove that word—the unfortunate suggestion, which is based on less than good logic, that the kind of direction we are pursuing is wrong or is not going to assist students. What we hear from parents, students and educators is that it will and we intend to help them to ensure that does happen.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, we warned the minister on April 9 and again on April 13 that this was a problem and that this was happening, that the decline in technical education was not an aberration and was something that was happening as a result of the OSIS scheme itself. The minister still seems to be saying the theory is sound. She is proud of her theory. The problem seems to be out there somewhere and everybody is at fault except for herself, the Premier and the government.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the minister a specific question. Was it her intention to reduce the number of students in technical courses in the next year and the years following? Was that part of the plan? If it was not part of the plan, what does she intend to do to ensure the integrity of the technical and vocational options for the students of this province to ensure that every student gets the kind of education he or she wants?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is utterly ludicrous of the leader of the third party to

suggest that we were going in the direction of attempting to reduce the opportunities for technical education. We have been very definitely moving in the opposite direction.

There is obviously some problem in implementation, and that is what has to be solved and will be solved through co-operative action. It will not be solved by those who stand up in this House screaming that we should destroy the plan, which has taken four years to develop and which has been developed by educators throughout this province in conjunction with those who are very concerned about education. We too are concerned about the quality of that program, and we shall do everything we can to maintain it.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, is the minister not concerned that in addition to turfing out teachers who have served technical education so well over the years, many of whom are in their 50s and were recruited from private industry and who dedicated themselves to education, the implementation of OSIS is leaving the general-level students behind?

Is the minister prepared to take immediate action, as she has been asked to do, to establish a Ministry of Education control team with the power to review and revise OSIS, a control team that would include representatives of the Ontario Teachers' Federation and its affiliates and that would have direct communication with the minister?

Will she ensure that courses adversely affected by OSIS in specialized subject areas are not deleted from individual school calendars for two years to allow for the kind of flexibility and easy implementation about which she speaks?

By the way, the minister has made it very difficult for boards of education to deliver implementation by a year.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is ill informed. Boards were given the choice, and there was total choice on their part to determine whether they wanted to implement it in 1984 or in 1985.

Mr. Bradley: That is not the fact.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is the fact.

Unfortunately, I have just received the federation's suggestions today. I will most certainly look at them. But I do believe we have been very diligently pursuing the improvement of educational program for students studying at the general level. We are very much concerned about the quality of teaching provided within this province, and we certainly want to see quality teaching maintained in all areas.

I am just delighted, as I am sure the honourable members have failed to tell the House, that in spite of the concern expressed by the members opposite, there is a very significant increase in the numbers of students from grade 9 enrolled in music programs in the schools as of this year.

Mr. Rae: The minister is a classic idealogue who is pursuing her private, weird theories on these people. That is the fact of what is happening in education today in Ontario. Her private theory is at the expense of people.

TAX CONCESSIONS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my next question is to the Treasurer. I would like to ask him about the amount of loophole spending that is going on in Ontario. Can he explain why there was absolutely no accounting in his budget for the amount of money it is costing the Treasury for the kinds of loopholes that have become part and parcel of the Tory tax system in the province?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: If you cannot find them get the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) to appoint another inquiry.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Renfrew North please settle down and be quiet.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, as always, we would be delighted to receive from the honourable member any real specifics on what he might call loophole spending. That is not the practice over here. If the member wants to offer us some details of what he thinks it is, I will be happy to receive them.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Rae: If the minister is not aware, he must be the only treasurer in Canada who has not had his ministry do a thorough accounting of how much money it is costing the Treasury to run a tax system that has all kinds of concessions to big business and powerful interests.

I would like specifically to ask the Treasurer why the government of Ontario does not do what other governments do, and in particular what the government of Canada did under Mr. Crosbie in 1979. What a good Conservative Finance minister he was—short but good. Why has this government not done anything with respect to what happened in British Columbia or Saskatchewan?

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is not what you said. You did not say that about Mr. Crosbie at the time.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You voted against him.

Mr. Rae: Is the Premier saying something?

Mr. Conway: The leader of the NDP stabbed him in the front.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes. I am saying that is hypocrisy.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Now to the question, please.

Mr. Rae: Can the Treasurer tell me why he does not do the kind of accounting for tax expenditures, for tax loopholes, that has been done in British Columbia and Saskatchewan? British Columbia's last accounting showed that tax spending amounted to nearly 50 per cent of total tax revenue. Does he not think the people of Ontario are entitled to know what tax concessions are costing them, particularly when it is the little person who pays more, precisely because of the Treasurer's concessions to big business?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I was interested last week or so to hear the member's endorsement of something called municipal development corporations. The suggestion is that municipalities invest in the small business development corporations program introduced by this government three or four years ago. It was very instructive to learn that his party had finally endorsed the concept that providing money to encourage small business development in the communities throughout this province is the real way to produce jobs.

Under the member's definition of loopholes, which I now understand because of his supplementary means tax concessions to stimulate job creation in the private sector, he would include SBDCs and all the money that has gone to them—and this year I am proud to say that is \$25 million—as comprising loopholes.

I would be pleased and delighted if the member would go to various communities throughout this province and speak very clearly to the people in those communities about what he considers to be loopholes, the concessions given to big business. I would be delighted to hear him talk about concessions to big business, as he puts it, and to small business, in places such as Thunder Bay. I would be delighted to hear him speak specifically about which of those tax concessions, almost all, if not all, of which create jobs, he is opposed to. That is what really counts.

Finally, if my memory is correct, as the one who moved the vote of no confidence in the Crosbie budget—did the member not move that

motion, the famous motion that brought down the government and the budget he—

Mr. Speaker: Order. This does not have anything to do with the question.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, surely the Treasurer would like to live up to his commitment to provide as much information on the budget as possible. There was a complete and utter lack of information other than one or two background budget papers.

Regardless of the partisanship he wants to take on this issue, surely the Treasurer could inform the Legislature and the people of the province just what taxes are being forgone on all the programs of the provincial Treasury and what money might be available to the Treasury had those programs, some of them good and others not so good, not been in place, including, for instance, those people with more than \$50,000 in income who are not paying taxes, which I understand is largely a matter that has to be dealt with by the federal government.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to see what information we can provide both here and in estimates. My colleague has just handed me some information. For example, in regard to retail sales tax exemptions, some of which I presume the leader of the third party might oppose, the exemption on farm machinery and equipment was \$32 million. I suspect he may not oppose that. On fertilizers and insecticide, the retail sales tax exemption was \$28 million. On fodder grain and agricultural feeds, it was \$49 million.

Those are fairly important tax expenditures. I presume they are not loopholes. Maybe they are, but I do not consider them to be. I consider them to be very important mechanisms to support the farming community. We will see what information we might be able to provide.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, would the minister simply have the decency to recognize his responsibility to be accountable to the Legislature? Would he outline for us the total costs of the tax expenditures of the province and the total number of jobs, if any, his ministry estimates those tax expenditures will create?

Would he confirm that the total tax expenditure in this province is about \$9 billion, of which \$3 billion is deferred taxes directed to the corporate sector? Would he not think it worthwhile to impose at least an interim small levy on that deferred tax to the corporate sector of, say, 10 per cent per year?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think that was a supplementary to the answer.

Mr. Foulds: That was exactly a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, I do not think it was. New question—

Mr. Foulds: No, Mr. Speaker. No.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, please.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, that was directly on the main question. If you do not know what tax expenditures are, the Treasurer does. I ask you to have the courtesy to let him answer it.

Mr. Speaker: I know very well what they are. There is no appeal to a Speaker's ruling. We will have a new question.

Mr. McClellan: It is arbitrary and unfair, sir, and I just want to tell you that.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will have a new question.

Mr. Foulds: With regret, Mr. Speaker, I must challenge your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: I beg your pardon? There is no appeal.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, if I might, whether or not that question is in order, I would think the member would find that I dealt with each part of it in my answer to the previous supplementary. It has been answered.

Mr. Speaker: That is right.

Mr. Foulds: Then it was directly supplementary, and the minister did not deal with it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It was—new question, please.

Mr. McClellan: Maybe we should have two rule books, one for you and one for us.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, if I may say so, that is the most bizarre ruling I have ever heard in this chamber. I just make that point. We accept it, but it is passing strange.

Mr. Speaker: Just for your information, and for all other members' information, it was a question that had been previously dealt with. I ruled it out of order because it was not supplementary to the answer which the Treasurer had given. Now, we will have a new question.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my second question is to the Deputy Premier. It concerns the fundamental lack of support in the budget for rape crisis centres.

As the Deputy Premier will no doubt be aware, the funding for rape crisis centres totals some \$200,000 a year, yet there are 16 centres across

the province. Does the Deputy Premier not recognize that level of funding is totally inadequate? What does he intend to do about it in view of the very important service these centres are providing all across the province?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is hardly fair to say that the budget would deal with every item to which the honourable member might want to direct his attention. As far as women's issues generally were concerned, the Treasurer has been very generous. I need hardly remind the leader of the third party of those initiatives dealing with child care, the whole question of domestic violence and like matters.

I am advised as well that this issue comes under the leadership of the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker). If the leader of the third party reviewed the situation, he would find that these centres received exactly what they requested last year. I am sure this matter is under constant review by the minister and by those who are charged with that responsibility.

3 p.m.

Mr. Rae: In Peterborough, the centre receives no municipal or United Way funding; it has a 24-hour crisis line and counselled 120 rape victims last year. The centre gets \$5,400 a year in funding.

I would like to ask the Deputy Premier, who is responsible in this House for women's issues, does he really think the women of Peterborough are getting an adequate service from the government of Ontario with respect to the vital matter of rape crisis intervention? Does he seriously think \$5,400 a year is doing the trick?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think the best way to direct a question such as this would be to deal with those who are charged with the responsibility for this program to see whether there are ways in which we, along with them, can work out the particular problems they have.

I think it is very unfair to leave the impression that nothing is being done when one recognizes the resources that have been made available over the last several years; not to overlook, for instance, the Women's College Hospital centre, which was opened just recently to deal with this whole question.

If individual centres are experiencing some financial difficulties, no doubt we should be working with them to see whether there are means to assist them with respect to their problems. Overall, we have recognized the important work that is being undertaken by these centres and the very significant role they play as a result.

Mr. Rae: I simply say to the Deputy Premier that when he says they got what they requested, that is nonsense. The Deputy Premier should be aware that what they had was basically a take-it-or-leave-it deal from the government and that is what they had to put up with.

Specifically, I ask the Deputy Premier to look at the examples. Every single centre we talked to raised the issue of the adequacy of its funding. In Hamilton, the centre gets \$15,000 a year from the province and a little bit more from the United Way. It has one full-time and two part-time staff and has to rely on the efforts of 30 volunteers. It handled 908 calls last year from the victims of rape, incest and sexual assault.

How does the Deputy Premier feel about the fact that the women are being so poorly served by the government of Ontario that the centres feel strapped for money all the time and are not able to do the job they want to do? Does he really think he is doing his job when this kind of discrepancy between need and performance by the government carries on?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Certainly no one is attempting to say, and I would not want to leave the impression, that everything has been done that can be done. Who would want to do that? I have already pointed out that if there are special circumstances that need some attention we should be looking at that.

The honourable member should perhaps have informed this House, by way of the preamble to his question, that in dealing with the Provincial Secretary for Justice last year, the coalition asked for \$200,000 and that is exactly what it got. It was delivered to them to be disbursed by them as they responded to the requests that came in to them.

We recognize what our responsibility is here, but it would be very unfortunate to leave the impression that there has not been the broadest consultation with respect to this matter and a very sensitive response on the part of the government.

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer in regard to more government waste we have heard about in the past few days.

On Friday, the government finally answered my question concerning the number and cost of public opinion polls in the 1982-83 fiscal year. The answer indicated that the government commissioned 22 polls during that time at a total cost of \$632,142. This was an increase of more than \$145,000 from the previous year, a jump of

more than 30 per cent. This occurred in the same year that hundreds of thousands of public workers in Ontario were being held to five per cent pay increases.

How can the Treasurer justify saying he takes a hard line on government expenditures when the money spent on the polls in that fiscal year went up by 30 per cent—or almost 36 per cent if we add in the ones that were not in the list of polls that was provided—at the same time as he is supposedly keeping a cap on government expenditures and particularly civil servants' salaries?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I would only say that, among other reasons, one undertakes a restraint exercise, whether it affects salaries and wages or other parts of public expenditures, to have the flexibility to manage the overall affairs of government.

As we reallocate expenditures in-year, some times the kinds of figures the member is quoting will go up and some times they will go down. No one seriously suggests that every single item in the government's accounts is going to go up by five per cent, or only five per cent. The real question is how well are we controlling our overall expenditure levels.

With respect, not too many people have suggested that in the budget presented a week ago today we have failed to control our expenditure levels. In point of fact, everything I have heard, at least from the honourable member's side of the House, has suggested we should be spending more.

The real question is how well are we controlling our overall expenditure growth. We compare very favourably, as the member knows.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I am sure the Treasurer, who prides himself on an open budgetary process, would agree with me these polls should be made available to members of the Legislature and the taxpayers who are paying for them. How can he sit in his place and say he is controlling nonessential expenditures like polls and the concomitant advertising budget, which went up 34 per cent in conjunction with the polls he takes, at the same time as he says he is controlling expenditures? He cannot have it both ways.

Is the Treasurer going to do something about it in this fiscal year? Is he going to cut in half the amount he is spending in polls, cut in half his expenditures on advertising that goes with the polls and cut it down to the bare essentials? As well, is he going to make this information known publicly?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I can assure the member of one thing, and that is we are prepared

to spend whatever we need to communicate information to the public with regard to the availability of government programs, whether that entails government advertising or more government advertising or more polls or fewer polls.

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is obvious.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, and I have no apologies to make for that. I can assure the member I believe there is no point in us making grand statements on this side of the House which contain important new policy initiatives if that is the start and finish of it. There is no point in us setting up the programs and then pretending that eight and a half million people out there who are supposed to benefit from these programs do not want to know about them.

I find this particularly to be the case with young people. I would say that even prior to last Tuesday we had the best array of youth programs in the country. After last Tuesday, we have even outmatched that. It is a fantastic array of programs for young people. They are of little use if the young people most in need do not avail themselves of those programs.

I want to tell the member we are prepared to spend whatever funds are necessary in that area or other areas to make sure our good government programs are brought to the knowledge and awareness of the people who are the targets for those programs. I make no apologies for that.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, will the minister indicate exactly how much his government and various ministries have budgeted for polling and for advertising in the coming fiscal year? How much has been budgeted for advertising of his plethora of youth programs?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, all that information is available in the estimates and that is where the honourable member should ask that question. With regard to the various components of the youth programs, those decisions are being made right now. Some will not need much advertising. I can tell the member right now some of them are going to need advertising and they are going to get the funding for it.

FOREST REGENERATION

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources concerning a completed study done by a senior forester in his ministry which his ministry officials sent to me and which I assume the minister will now table.

Mr. George Marek prepared a report on silvicultural treatments in the north central

region. In that report, the senior forester commented: "The majority of silvicultural treatments in all three subject areas did not result in fully stocked stands of desirable species, except in a few isolated areas. Most of the treated cutovers will not produce stands of conifers which would compare favourably with the original stands which grew on these sites. There are too many failures throughout the north central region." I would like to ask the minister to comment on that.

3:10 p.m.

Given the very critical assessment of both past and present cutting practices and silvicultural methods in the north central region, which I assume would be not unlike those in other parts of the province, could the minister finally admit that all is not as well in our forests as he would have us believe; and would he comment specifically on that quote from Mr. Marek's report?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marek was filing a report on an area of the province in which he had responsibility as the district forester. He is entitled to make those observations and we take his observations seriously. He made some recommendations that we have been examining over the past several weeks. In the context of those recommendations, we have been addressing issues of utilization and building them into a credit system with respect to increased crown dues.

As I indicated to the leader of the third party, I think it was a week and a half ago, we are examining Mr. Marek's recommendations. Some of them will find their way into changes we are making in utilization practices on which we are now beginning discussions with the industry and with other interest groups in the north.

I have to say that observations such as Mr. Marek has made do have an impact on our policies and we take his observations seriously. We are making improvements, and have done so over the past two years, to address some of the issues. Some of Mr. Marek's recommendations have already been acted upon in the ministry, if the honourable member will carefully examine some of the new procedures and practices that have been laid out in the last two years.

I want to put Mr. Marek's comments into the context of what we have been doing in reforestation in Ontario. It is a reality that we have expanded the stock available for reforestation from 80 million trees to 150 million trees this year. It is a reality that in northwestern Ontario we are tripling the amount of bare root and containerized stock we are planting this year over

what it was in 1981. It is a reality that we are planting 50 million containerized seedlings in northeastern Ontario this year. The reality is that we have geared up to do a reforestation job, the likes of which have never been seen in any jurisdiction in North America.

Mr. Laughren: I do not blame the minister for avoiding the criticisms of Mr. Marek because his answer had absolutely nothing to do with Mr. Marek's very damning indictment of the ministry's reforestation practices.

Does the minister not think it very strange that someone with Mr. Marek's 30 years' experience would have difficulty in seeing much difference between untreated cutover areas and treated cutover areas? According to Mr. Marek's report, "The district staff quite casually admitted that the situation in the bush was quite different from the situation shown in the records." He means the Ministry of Natural Resources records.

There is also the fact that when more detailed assessments of stocking levels are done, they show lower levels of success than did the previous numbers used by the ministry. Is that the real reason the minister and his staff refused to give us the stocking level figures last year when the task force of this party was travelling across the province? Is that the real reason the minister is so secretive about the state of the forests in Ontario? Those are public forests and surely we have the right to those numbers.

Hon. Mr. Pope: That is typical New Democratic Party nonsense. The member knows Mr. Marek's report contains observations about reforestation. I have just given him the figures on containerized stock, the increase in stock and how it has been distributed across the province, so he should not say containerized stock has nothing to do with reforestation. How silly can he be. He knows as well as I do that the changes we have made in the reforestation program in the last two years will, and have already started to, dramatically alter some of the historical observations Mr. Marek has made.

I reiterate, Mr. Marek is making observations, unsubstantiated in the case of that observation from some unknown staff member who says the numbers in the ministry office are different from what the field shows. What field? Where is it?

The member knows as well as I do that the stocking figures are based on a one-plot cruise superimposed on a wide district area. They have no relevance at all to what is going on out there. It is time the member realized that we are making improvements. We have a record to be proud of on reforestation.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the minister is aware that over a five-year period the results have been, if we have been lucky, about a 50 per cent survival rate, let alone how well they are growing. Will the minister then provide a historical record, if that is the term he likes, for the last five years of all the replanting that has been done across northern Ontario, the survival rates appertaining thereto and just how healthy the reforestation program has been?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, that information is already available. An 85 per cent survival rate was given to that party last fall; they would not believe it, but that is what the statistics show, and that shows the success of reforestation in this province.

LOCATION OF ASPHALT PLANT

Mr. Worton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources in regard to the establishment by Warren Paving of an illegal asphalt plant in a wayside pit.

He will have correspondence. The township of Puslinch has expressed concern about this, as have the residents, and the only out they have right now is the possibility of taking an injunction before either the county court or the Supreme Court.

In view of the fact the Ministry of Natural Resources in Cambridge has indicated that this asphalt plant was established illegally, would the minister through his ministry take the necessary steps, if it is within his jurisdiction, to close this operation down and save the township of Puslinch from becoming involved in a lawsuit or an injunction procedure?

I would also appreciate it if at the same time he and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) would comment on a communication they have received from the Presbyterian Crieff Hills Community about the hours of operation of the wayside pit portion, which was approved some months ago.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to look into the matter. Quite frankly, I am not aware of recent correspondence, but I will review the correspondence file for the last week. It may be that there are some provisions in the zoning bylaw that might have an effect on the legality or illegality of that pit. In any event, I will examine it along with my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) in the context of both the zoning and the pit licence and see if there has been a breach of the licence or the zoning.

We have tried to put conditions in the pit licence in the last three years with respect to hours and the way in which operations are carried forward, and I would have to verify whether or not such conditions were in that specific wayside pit permit.

Mr. Worton: Rev. Spencer has indicated to me in a letter of January 19 that the hours of operation of that pit were 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. It was later changed to 6:30 p.m.

The thing that is most important to the solicitor for the township is that if there is some chance they have to go through an injunction process, no amendment will be made without due thought being given to it.

Hon. Mr. Pope: I will try to communicate any response to the honourable member and the township before we consider changes.

ACTIVITIES OF POLICE

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General. Four weeks ago today his agent in Hamilton withdrew the charges against William Franklin Baker in circumstances that required an investigation by his ministry. Will he today, tomorrow or Thursday table in this assembly the report of that investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrest, detention and subsequent discharge of Mr. Baker?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, my recollection of this matter is that the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) indicated the Ontario Provincial Police was making the investigation in relation to the arrest and detention of Mr. Baker.

Obviously, the local crown attorney's office had a role to play as well, and I would expect we will be in a position to indicate just what the position or role of the crown attorney's office was when the OPP investigation has been concluded; but I think we will have to wait until that has occurred.

Mr. Renwick: The Solicitor General has refused so far to provide any further information with respect to the investigation by the OPP. I am asking the Attorney General whether he will do one of two things in consultation with the Solicitor General. Will he undertake to provide the report of the OPP in conjunction with his office to this assembly or, failing the provision of that report, will he in consultation with the Solicitor General recommend to his cabinet colleagues that a public inquiry be held by the Ontario Police Commission under section 59 of the Police Act?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: All I can say at this point is that when the Ontario Provincial Police investigation has been concluded, as Attorney General I will certainly be prepared to make a report to this House.

RECONSTRUCTION OF OTTAWA QUEENSWAY

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. It has to do with the concern and great consternation of the people of Ottawa-Carleton about the continuing construction on the Queensway and the chaos it is causing to traffic, especially the east-west flow of traffic.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Does the member want them to stop?

Mr. Roy: Was somebody suggesting it should stop?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Roy: That is about the most intelligent suggestion that minister has made in this session.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Roy: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I get somewhat annoyed at that useless minister making comments.

The minister will know that this is the only east-west artery for traffic in Ottawa-Carleton. It will be of concern to those who are now planning the Pope's visit and the mass at the western end of Ottawa-Carleton in Nepean.

I would like to ask him whether his ministry has received a request from the organizing committee to close the Queensway for a number of hours or for the day when the mass is held to allow public transportation free access to move some 200,000 or 300,000 people to the western end of the city. Will the minister undertake to advise whether the construction on the Queensway will not unduly impair this type of traffic flow during an event as important as the Pope's mass, which I think will be on September 19?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, there has been consultation between my ministry and those arranging the Pope's visit to Ottawa. Representatives of my ministry are sitting on co-ordinating committees in Ottawa, Toronto and Simcoe county. We will be working with those groups on all aspects of arranging for transportation.

With regard to Ottawa, to my knowledge there has been no decision yet as to where the mass will take place. I believe three sites are being considered and that a consultant has been hired by the archbishop or whoever is in charge to

come up with recommendations as to the site best suited for the mass.

My colleagues from Ottawa have spoken to me with regard to the construction on the Queensway and I have checked with my people in the region. We hope the present contract will be completed by the time the Pope's visit takes place and the next contract will be about to start. I do not want to delay the start of that contract, but I want to make sure no construction is taking place at that time. It may be necessary to delay the number two contract by a week or so to make sure everything is clear and in the best possible condition.

Mr. Roy: The minister will be aware that the preferred site, and the one originally chosen for the Pope's mass, was the National Capital Equestrian Park in Nepean at the western end of the city. The only reason the other sites are being considered is concern about moving 200,000 or 300,000 people east-west to that site. Given the minister's earlier statement, if a request is made, is his disposition such that he is prepared to close the Queensway for a period of time to allow public transportation free access to the Queensway to move these people?

Second, when we are talking about the construction and closure of certain ramps on the Queensway itself, could the minister not get better co-operation from local government so that when he closes off a particular ramp and diverts traffic to another street in Ottawa or other parts of the city, an adjustment is made for traffic lights and construction is not going on with the result that there are traffic jams all the way down the Queensway and undue delay for people using that important artery?

Hon. Mr. Snow: We worked very closely with the region of Ottawa-Carleton and the lower-tier municipalities in all the planning for the construction on the Queensway. Even though the member and one of his colleagues from Ottawa, as well as certain other people, have been very critical of the planning process and the construction that is taking place, it so happens that I have had a great many compliments about the co-operation that has taken place for that major construction project.

Certainly, we are prepared to consider the closing of any highways and arteries, as we are for the other sites. In Ottawa, if we close the Queensway for a major amount of time, it will mean a very serious disruption to the traffic flow east and west in the Ottawa-Carleton area. I am sure the member realizes that. A very serious

decision will have to be made if that site is chosen.

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities. The minister may not have been present in the House last week when her colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), in response to questions about the absence of job-creation programs in the budget, said he preferred "long-term, sensible investment in our people."

In the light of that remark, with which I am sure the minister will associate her ministry, how can she possibly justify a budget that includes a real reduction in dollars for both her ministries, which are so critically important for long-term investment in our people, especially at the end of a decade of declining real dollar investment that has left the province in elementary and secondary education at 12.3 per cent below the national average and post-secondary at 11 per cent below the national average as a percentage of gross provincial product?

How can the minister possibly accept a budget that reduces her expenditure in real dollars? Is any other major industrial country following that disastrous course of reducing its educational investment in its people?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, from my point of view, the investment by the province of about \$3.2 billion in elementary and secondary education and about \$2 billion in post-secondary education is real money. It is not a significant decline in the amount of money that is made available through the provincial coffers for the provision of educational programs.

There is no doubt that there has been a significant improvement in allocation at the university level through the budget announcements of last week, the availability of which will be more clearly presented to the institutions in the not too distant future. The colleges of the province are having a significant rise in the budgetary allocation again this year.

I would remind the honourable member that for the past three years the allocation has been quite markedly above the level of inflation each year. If he compares that with what has happened in other provinces in the last two years, he will find Ontario has done far better than most other jurisdictions, simply because we began the process of being thrifty and concerned about unnecessary expenditure at a much earlier time

and, therefore, we are now able to provide the institutions with the funds they need.

3:30 p.m.

PETITIONS

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private member's bills of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wine in small, independent grocery stores.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

This petition is signed by 2,352 people, bringing the grand total of people who have signed these petitions to 6,043 to date.

I have another petition. This one is opposed to the sale of wine and beer in grocery stores. It is signed by 15 people.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) and York Centre (Mr. Cousens), I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

It is signed by Sharon Kelly of Simcoe, Ontario.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TENANTS SECURITY ACT

Mr. McClellan moved, seconded by Mr. Renwick, first reading of Bill 78, An Act to extend Security of Tenure for Tenants.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to extend security of tenure for tenants of residential dwellings by protecting them against economic eviction. It does this through amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Act, the Residential Tenancies Act and the Planning Act.

The principle of security of tenure for residential tenants is broadened by the following new provisions:

First, tenants should receive financial compensation when the tenancy agreement is terminated under the no-fault sections of the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Second, tenants should have a right of first refusal to purchase their residential premises when the landlord proposes to sell, demolish or change the use of the premises.

Third, the exemptions in section 134 of the Residential Tenancies Act are deleted, including the exemption for buildings rented since January 1, 1976, and the \$750-a-month rental exemption.

Fourth, landlords will not be allowed to pass through the costs of renovation or repairs without prior approval of tenants.

Fifth, the cabinet shall have the power to set an absolute upper limit on allowable rent increases.

Finally, all municipalities will have the power to control both demolitions of rental units and conversion of rental units to luxury accommodation.

NURSING HOMES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan, first reading of Bill 79, An Act to amend the Nursing Homes Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, this bill would restrict new nursing home licences to charitable, nonprofit corporations. After the end of 1990, licences held by licensees who are not charitable, nonprofit corporations would not be renewed.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answers to questions 236 to 247, 294 and 318 [see Hansard for Friday, May 25].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue with my comments on the budget.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I understood that the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) was the last member to adjourn the debate and that rotation would properly be recognized with this party resuming.

Mr. Speaker: My information is that the member for Lakeshore has the floor.

Mr. McClellan: No. The last speaker was the member for Leeds.

Mr. Speaker: Just one moment. Our records show that on Friday, May 18, the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) spoke, the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) spoke and the member for Lakeshore was speaking and was the person who adjourned the debate.

It is right here on the record, with all respect. The member for Leeds adjourned the debate on Thursday night.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Kolyn: Today our main challenge is to ensure that our young people have the opportunity to receive the skills training and work experience to meet the demands of the job market. Through the Ontario youth opportunities fund and the strategy outlined by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) in the budget, I believe we will go a long way towards providing and coordinating the necessary training and employ-

ment for our youth. These measures, as well as others in the budget, underline the importance of investing in the human resources of our province.

As the members opposite have realized, the economic transformation we are undergoing often means that existing jobs are lost, but it also means that many more can be created if we have the right individuals, enterprises and policies. Our job is not to stop or slow the transformation, because that cannot be done. We must ensure that we can take advantage of the changes to create new jobs, which will in turn generate even more employment. We must invest now in skills training, innovations and long-term job creation.

This budget does just that. This budget will provide young people with basic work skills and job placements. Disadvantaged youth will be offered education, vocational training and counselling. Young people who left school early will have additional opportunities to receive instruction in basic work skills, on-the-job training and counselling through our community colleges.

We will provide subsidies to those jobs in the private sector that will provide meaningful training or job experience. A variable subsidy rate will be used to help those youth in greatest need. The number of youth employment counselling centres will be tripled, providing young people in smaller communities access to counselling.

As well, the Ontario career action program will be expanded by almost 30 per cent to provide training and employment for more than 16,000 young people. In addition, year-round venture capital incentives, a new part-time employment program and the Ontario youth tourism program will provide a wide range of opportunities for our young people.

As I said earlier, I am glad to see that our older workers have not been neglected. The four initiatives under the Ontario skills fund will help this group of workers through the investment of \$150 million over the next three years.

I know that many members, including myself, have had to deal with the concerns of older workers facing layoffs or technological change. We should therefore congratulate the Treasurer for his effort to establish training trust funds which will result in continuous training efforts. This incentive will encourage employees, employers and the province to establish jointly funded trust funds.

For the first year the province has offered to match employee contributions to the fund up to a maximum of \$100,000 per firm. The employees benefiting from the plan will be more valuable to

the business, better prepared to adapt to new developments and in more demand.

The Treasurer is also allocating some \$40 million in special training initiatives to help those workers affected by technological change. In particular, these initiatives will aid women and older workers by allowing them to finish their high school education, take additional technical courses, receive and upgrade skills with new technologies and receive on-the-job training.

Where workers over the age of 45 have actually been laid off, the province will give a \$2,000 hiring incentive to the employers who hire these workers for at least one year. Such an incentive will be useful in breaking down an employer's reluctance to hire older workers.

Fourth, we will be giving additional support to laid-off workers by providing financial assistance to unemployed help centres run by the trade unions.

Individually and in total, these initiatives are proof of this government's deep concern for the wellbeing of Ontario's current and future workers.

I was glad to see that the budget followed closely the Treasurer's paper released back in March on technological innovation and diffusion in Ontario. That report indicated that during the period of economic transformation, there were four important policy areas in which government could provide policy direction and leadership. Those four were: human resources policy consisting of education and training; research and development funding; industry policies for innovation; and industry policies for diffusion.

Many of the budget's initiatives aimed at youth and older workers have included aspects of education and training in recognition of the province's economic transformation. The budget also provides an increased effort to expand the research capacities of our universities and to strengthen their relationship with our economy.

By creating the university research incentive fund, the province will assist the private sector in stimulating research activity which should create economic benefits. New policies to stimulate innovations will be developed through the enterprise growth fund. This will result in the creation of innovation centres in selected universities and colleges and in funding for enterprise centres in communities across the province. Both types of centres will result in the establishment of new enterprises and jobs.

Technology diffusion will also be aided by a variety of means. We will give our technology centres the means to assist in modernization

retooling. The Ontario development corporations, together with the technology centres, will assist small and medium-sized businesses to acquire high-technology equipment.

There will be a new program to assist businesses that want to rent robots and high-technology equipment. A technology diffusion training program will provide educational grants to managers, engineers and technicians who are instrumental in bringing high technology into small and medium-sized companies.

A very positive idea in the budget was to ensure that children be given greater access to computers. The distribution of 4,000 computers to communities across Ontario will guarantee the exposure of tens of thousands of children to computers. It is time they appeared in libraries and other community institutions. I think this is an important step, and we should watch the development of this initiative to see whether it should be expanded at some future time.

Continuing with technology diffusion, I was pleased to see that we are continuing to aid the auto sector, which is leading our economic recovery and assisting our steel industry, rubber plants, transportation and the retail trade. In fact, according to the Conference Board of Canada's latest report, we can expect an amazing 20 per cent or greater increase in automobile manufacturing this year.

However, I would like to point out we should not be content in the belief that our automobile industry is out of the woods with nothing to worry about. I continue to remain convinced that Canadian content regulations are essential if we are to protect Canadian jobs in this industry. Here in Ontario roughly one job in six is linked directly or indirectly to the auto industry, and we must ensure these workers are not endangered by unfair trade practices.

The problem is competition from Japan and abroad. The Japanese take about one quarter of the Canadian automobile market, yet their assets in this country are about one tenth those of Chrysler, Ford, General Motors and American Motors. Although Japan is selling cars here, it is doing very little to establish a real presence on our soil as a manufacturer. The fact is, the Japanese auto industry has contributed virtually nothing in the way of new investment, jobs or capital in Canada, while it is running away with the domestic car market.

Canada is the seventh-largest vehicle market in the world, yet Japan exports more cars only to the United States and West Germany. Obviously, the popularity of Japanese cars is here to stay;

but what must accompany this popularity, if we are to preserve our economic strength, is a commitment from Japanese auto manufacturers to create jobs in Canada.

Regulations ensuring a certain percentage of parts are created or the assembly of Japanese automobiles is done in Canada by Canadian workers must be set in place. These kinds of regulations, known as content regulations, are essential if we are to protect and expand our automotive industry. They are necessary to protect Canadian jobs, as well as Ontario's jobs, and to encourage new investment.

To my mind, content regulations make sense. If the Japanese wish to enjoy access to our domestic market, it is only fair that they be prepared to make some kind of investment in this country similar to the kind of investment we have already seen in the United States. The Japanese have invested approximately \$3 billion in the auto manufacturing sector in the United States.

The comparison between the American and Canadian situation is interesting. The United States has rejected any kind of local content regulation. It has done so, not because of any commitment to free trade or the recommendations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the famous GATT negotiations, but because it was able to persuade the Japanese to create jobs and make investment in the United States without resort to content regulations.

It should also be remembered that the US Congress did have before it a bill that, if passed, would have required 90 per cent American content in all imported cars. In Europe and the United Kingdom, governments are even stricter with imported automobiles. France sets a limit of three per cent of Japanese automobiles. Italy draws the line at 3,000 cars, no more and no less, while Britain limits Japanese cars to a flat 10 per cent of its domestic market.

3:50 p.m.

Canada and the United States are the only major automobile markets that have not clamped down on the free flow of products from Japan. The United States, however, through the threat of creating restrictive trade legislation, has Japanese auto plants on its soil employing American workers. As yet, Canada has none.

I believe it is time Canada and the federal government took action to protect our domestic automobile market and the jobs of Canadian auto workers. We have seen what has happened in the field of television, electronics equipment and calculators. North American companies established in these fields were squeezed out of world

and domestic markets by tough-nosed competition from the Japanese.

The Japanese do a lot of business with Canada, especially in the resource field, but I do not think the Japanese will close off their market to our resources if we start taking a hard look at establishing content regulations for imported automobiles. Japanese businessmen are too shrewd to be governed by sentiment. The reason they do business with us in the resource sector is that they know they are getting good-quality goods at bargain prices.

Canadians must realize their domestic market should be a tool for recovery and job creation. Our economy will be stronger and our employment situation will be better if Japanese auto manufacturers establish plants here in Canada as they have in the United States and as Japanese electronics firms have done already in Ontario.

We must use our demand for their products as a tool to create jobs and investment. Otherwise, we run the risk of seeing further erosion of the automobile industry in Canada. In fact, the president of Chrysler, Mr. Closs, recently told reporters that should the current situation continue, Canadian auto makers may be forced to consider contracting out work to other nations that will be able to do the same job at a cheaper price.

A similar situation has occurred with other Canadian industries, such as sporting goods and textiles. Based upon competition from the Far East, these companies began contracting out work to countries that can produce parts at a price that will meet the challenge from Japan.

This, however, is only one possibility. The real concern remains that our automobile industry will be weakened if the Japanese do not invest in Canada. Since the Japanese have made no move to create plants or working agreements with the auto makers already established in Canada, I believe we must have content regulations on imported vehicles to protect jobs.

To my mind, there is only one course ahead: jobs and investment must be protected. It only makes sense to see that auto makers, who control a significant portion of the domestic market, can be required to set up shop in Canada and employ Canadian workers. Without this protection, our auto industry and our economy as a whole stand in grave peril. We must all press the federal government to implement content regulations.

Because of the national importance of the auto industry, early last month I wrote an open letter to the candidates running for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada. I wrote because the

candidates, delegates, and even the media coverage, have been strangely silent on this very important policy issue which affects Ontario. Forty per cent of Canadian voters live here in Ontario. This is the powerful text of my letter:

"As a Canadian"—and as an MPP in the Ontario Legislature—"concerned about the future of our domestic auto industry, I am writing to you, and all other candidates for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada, to request information on your position with regard to the future of the Canadian auto industry.

"I assume that you have no quarrel with the statement made by your government in its speech from the throne in December 1983 that: 'The auto industry is crucial to our economic wellbeing. Stabilizing employment in automobile manufacturing and supplier industries is an essential task.'

"As you are aware, the auto industry directly employs more than 100,000 Canadians and represents about 60 per cent of Canada's exports of manufactured goods. While the future of this industry is of interest to all Canadians, it is of particular concern to the people of Ontario. In Ontario, which accounts for 95 per cent of the Canadian industry's output, an estimated 20 per cent of our economy depends on the auto industry.

"The industry is a major employer in our province supporting, either directly or indirectly, one in every six jobs in our economy. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the recent strong performance of the industry is largely responsible for Ontario's relatively rapid recovery from the recession. The above figures serve to illustrate that the future economic health of our province is closely tied to the future economic health of the auto industry.

"It is then perhaps understandable that I and, I am sure, thousands of other people in Ontario are interested in learning what you, as a possible leader of a major national party and a potential leader of this country, would do to carry out the 'essential task' of building a secure future for the industry in Canada.

"Specifically:

"Do you support the federal government's declared intent and current efforts to negotiate a Canada-Japan auto agreement which would lead to the construction of additional production facilities in Canada and to increased parts procurement in Canada?

"If such negotiations fail, would you be prepared to extend existing import quotas scheduled

to expire March 31, or would you be prepared to introduce new, more stringent quotas?

"Would you be prepared to support the introduction of Canadian content regulations?

"In the negotiations with the Japanese or with any other offshore producer would you link the level of any quota to the level of offshore investment in the Canadian auto industry?

"Would you be prepared to support and assist provincial government programs designed to enhance the competitiveness of Canadian auto parts manufacturers, programs such as the recently announced Ontario initiative to help fund retooling projects at auto parts plants?

"While the Canadian industry is currently enjoying one of the most successful periods in its history, that is no reason to become complacent about its future.

"A number of international developments, such as the entrance into the Canadian market of the South Korean producer Hyundai and the planned entrance of South Korea's second-largest producer, Daewoo, into the North American market in 1986 under the terms of a joint venture agreement with General Motors, and the expansion by Ford Motor Co. of its Mexican operations, could have a very real negative impact on our domestic auto industry.

"An integrated strategy consisting of some of the measures mentioned earlier is, in my opinion, required if we are to ensure the continued vitality of our domestic industry and protect the thousands of jobs which it supports.

"I look forward to hearing from you on these matters."

I would like to report that to this date not one candidate has replied directly and that I have heard from only one campaign, John Turner's. Before I mention the contents of this reply, I would urge my colleagues in the official opposition to voice their concerns about the auto industry to their federal colleagues, particularly those who are leadership candidates.

Here is Mr. Turner's reply:

"John Turner has asked me to reply to your letter of April 2. He shares your concern for the continued growth of the domestic automobile industry in Ontario and Canada. He agrees that because of its effects on jobs and the economy—and on the whole the auto industry is crucial to our economy—it is of paramount importance that we seek an integrated and comprehensive strategy to protect our current industry and ensure that Canada has a healthy ongoing automotive industry.

"Once the leadership convention is over, Mr. Turner has promised to consult more widely with everyone involved and concerned with this issue. His political style is one of consultation and mediation, and I think that this is one area where all Canadians, regardless of political affiliations, must work together to ensure our economic prosperity."

The letter was signed by Bob Foulkes, policy adviser.

I welcome John Turner's promise to consult after the campaign, but I would rest easier knowing what his position and those of the other contenders are before this convention. What is "integrated and comprehensive strategy"? This is an important matter with which our national government should deal sooner rather than later.

I would like to touch briefly on a few other areas covered by the budget. The first deals with Ontario health insurance plan premiums. Here I agree strongly with the words of the Treasurer when he says there should be a clear and continued link between premiums and the cost of health care.

During the budget briefing for reporters, the Treasurer said too few people realize that about \$700 in premiums buys \$4,000 worth of health care. The average cost of health care for a family in Ontario works out to \$4,000, but that same family is required to contribute only some \$700 in premiums to the health care system. In many cases it is the employer who pays the OHIP premiums; but even where that does not happen, the taxpayer is not really made aware of the actual costs of health care.

No one can dispute that Ontario provides probably the best health care in the world, but few people realize what resources are required to maintain this system. All one has to do is to look at the expenditure charts on page 43 of the budget document. It is clear that health costs are consuming an ever-increasing percentage of public expenditures, and I believe that OHIP premiums are virtually the only way of bringing this fact home to the average person.

4 p.m.

Increasing premiums are a constant reminder of increasing health care costs, and the premiums are not even rising as fast as the costs are. The premiums are a gauge by which people can decide if too much or too little is being spent on health care.

The budget document chart shows that in 1980-81 the provincial budget was some \$17 billion dollars and that health took up 28.4 per cent of that, or almost \$5 billion. Actually, it was

\$4.86 billion. This year the provincial budget is \$26.8 billion and the share going to health is even greater. This year 30.8 per cent of expenditures are going to health, an estimated total of \$8.24 billion.

This year's health budget has increased by some \$661 million and next year it will likely require an \$800-million increase. The Ontario health insurance plan premiums will bring in only an additional \$62 million, less than one tenth of the increase.

The challenge today is not only economic; major changes are taking place in the social fabric of Ontario and these changes must be reflected in our actions. We want independence, good health and dignity for our seniors. We will help the disabled contribute fully to their community and lead active, independent lives. We want to give the disadvantaged a greater sense of purpose and self-worth. We will deal compassionately with the problems of family violence. We will help those who rely on social assistance to assert their independence. We will increase access to day care for children in low-income families.

I welcome the exemption from an increase in assessment for renovations and additions to keep elderly people at home. This will be of particular benefit to elderly home owners in my riding. Its purpose is to further ensure the continued wellbeing and independence of the province's handicapped and senior citizens by helping to keep them comfortable in their own homes.

It is to encourage other property owners to undertake alterations, improvements or additions to their property for the purpose of providing residential accommodation to either disabled or senior citizens who would otherwise require institutional care. These objectives are met by exempting from property taxation the value of those alterations, improvements or additions to property undertaken by May 16, 1984, for this purpose.

Eligibility for property tax exemption applies to alterations, improvements or additions commenced after May 15, 1984, to properties of not more than three units for the purpose described below. The alterations, improvements or additions must be undertaken for the purpose of providing residential accommodation for the disabled or senior citizens who without these alterations, improvements or additions would otherwise require care in an institution.

Only the assessed value of those alterations, improvements or additions constructed for the above-noted purposes are exempt from property

taxation. Also, the exemption is only for as long as the disabled or senior citizen or citizens reside in the property as his, her or their principal place of residence.

The property of disabled and senior citizens in their own homes also qualifies for tax exemption. Again this applies only if the alterations, improvements or additions begun after May 15, 1984, were undertaken to allow the owner or owners to continue to reside at the property as his, her or their principal place of residence.

In the case of property owners providing accommodation for disabled and senior citizens, the owner of the property for which a tax exemption is being sought must complete an affidavit, which is available at regional assessment offices.

The affidavit will describe the alterations, improvements or additions begun after May 15, 1984. Again these must be for the purpose of providing residential accommodation for the disabled or senior citizen or citizens, who, without these alterations, improvements or additions, would require care in an institution. The affidavit will also affirm that the disabled or senior citizen or citizens are currently residing at the property as his, her, or their principal place of residence.

In addition, the increases in guaranteed annual income system payments for seniors will raise Gains payments for the single elderly in conjunction with the increase in the federal guaranteed income supplement. By the end of 1984, our single elderly will be guaranteed a basic annual income of more than \$8,000, or 60 per cent of that provided to couples. These Gains increases will benefit 124,000 elderly persons in Ontario, most of whom are women. We are providing an additional \$27 million for these improvements.

To the many elderly singles in my riding of Lakeshore, this is a welcome change. I have talked to many elderly singles who always made the argument that getting 50 per cent of what a couple received was very unfair. Rent and other expenses are often the same for both singles and couples. I am personally pleased that the Treasurer was very sensitive to the needs of our elderly singles.

Our ability to respond successfully to change will depend in large part on the vigour and strength of entrepreneurs and small businesses. The job creation record of young firms is evidence of their will and ability to adjust and to innovate. We must use our resources to supply these new firms, which create most of the new jobs in our economy. This focus was confirmed

in the prebudget discussions with small business people and their representatives.

Small business must look to world markets. What makes a successful trading nation? Personally I can think of one area that pretty well fits that description. That jurisdiction has eight million inhabitants, a diverse economy, a proven history of sound research and new technology, high standards of education, an excellent transportation and communications network, and ready access to one of the largest export markets in the world.

In addition, that jurisdiction has a proven track record of success in foreign trade. In fact, its per capita foreign trade is three times that of Japan and its people have been among the most successful traders in Europe and North America for several hundred years. Have the members already guessed who I am talking about? It is not Belgium or Holland. The area I have just described is Ontario.

In the last 10 years, our trade with world markets has mushroomed by 300 per cent. Yet in the same period we have let ourselves fall behind. That is why the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade is aggressively promoting the idea of new export markets for Ontario companies. Let us look at the record. For every manufacturer who sells abroad, there are three or four that do not. For every company that keeps on top of new technology and regularly updates its operations, there is one that does not. Too many Ontario firms, both large and small, are content to follow the old ways and are satisfied to supply the domestic market.

A protected home market can no longer be relied on for business success. Through international agreements, the industrialized nations of the world are moving towards freer world trade. This means tariff barriers are coming down and trade and production is being reorganized on an international basis. The result is that Ontario companies must keep pace with world trends or they will be squeezed out by competitors from home and overseas.

Already, nearly one million jobs in Ontario depend directly on exports. If our share of international trade is boosted by one tenth of one per cent from its current 1.5 per cent to 1.6 per cent over the next four years, our exports will hit \$60 billion and we will have created 150,000 more jobs in this province. It sounds incredible; it really is not.

Let us take a look at the United States market for a moment. The United States buys 82 per cent of Ontario's exports. The trade flow between

New York state and Ontario amounts to \$8.2 billion, which is more than most nations trade with each other. In fact, Ontario is a larger trading partner of the US than is Japan.

Ontario industry and expertise has already proved it can compete in overseas markets. For example, this past fall Ontario was represented at Japan's largest electronics trade show. Why? It was because Ontario electronics firms have proved they can produce short-run specialty electronics at the price and quality today's world market demands.

The plain fact is Ontario can compete. The Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade has set itself the goal of boosting our province's export trade and has set up a number of programs to achieve this. First, there are the research and development centres located throughout the province sponsored by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. These centres help businesses of all sizes keep in touch with the latest techniques in robotics, electronic design or what have you. The provincial Ministry of Labour's Quality of Working Life Centre also provides the employer with sound advice on how to win the co-operation and involvement of workers in the introduction of new production techniques.

Second, the Ontario government has a chain of eight trade offices throughout the United States, as well as offices in Britain, Europe and the Far East. These offices know the demands of the local market and will help to identify specific export opportunities.

4:10 p.m.

To help businesses get established in overseas markets, the Ministry of Industry and Trade runs frequent trade missions and participates in international trade fairs. Participation in these undertakings helps businessmen get a first-hand idea about prospective markets. The Ontario government will pay their way and set up meetings so their time on these trips is well spent. Similarly, the Ontario government will pay to bring prospective customers to see them in their facilities. A program has been established to bring qualified business leaders from around the world to Ontario.

How successful have these operations been? Last year the Ministry of Industry and Trade's foreign office set up meetings and appointments that resulted in \$171 million in immediate sales orders for Ontario companies. No one knows how many more millions of dollars were involved in follow-up orders. Ontario's export development programs do work. More import-

ant, they can work for business right here in Etobicoke. No business is too small to be incapable of winning overseas or American business. The challenge of winning export sales is a challenge the Ontario government is willing to share with our business community.

All members will remember the measure the former Treasurer, the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller), took to help small businesses weather the recession. In the 1982 budget he exempted small businesses from paying corporate income tax for two years, and in last year's budget he extended that holiday to include 1984. By taking these steps, the province made a major contribution to preserving and creating employment in this most important sector of our economy.

As a result of the tax holiday, a great many of our small firms have emerged from the recession on a solid financial footing. In recognition of the fact the recession is now behind us, this tax holiday will run out at the end of the year; however, the current Treasurer has decided to continue the exemption from Ontario corporations income tax for startups and young firms. The exemption will apply to companies during their first three years of incorporation. In future years it will mean an estimated \$45-million annual benefit to newly incorporated businesses, providing significant support for young firms and reinforcing our commitment to entrepreneurship.

The Treasurer has decided to maintain our commitment to the successful small business development corporations program by providing a \$25-million allocation for 1984-85. Consistent with the need to target and focus our efforts, changes will be made to increase the benefits available to new enterprises and provide pools of capital for small businesses in selected regions of Ontario.

The small business development corporations program will be organized into three separate funds: \$12.5 million will be available to investors in small business throughout Ontario; in addition, a special fund of \$7.5 million will be dedicated exclusively to investments in the north and the east; another special \$5-million fund—

Mr. Wildman: That is just a pittance.

Mr. Kolyn: The member will have his chance. He can rebut it.

Another special \$5-million fund will be available specifically for investments in startups.

Further, to ensure a wider and more effective distribution of equity capital, additional technical changes will be made which will, for example, limit the maximum size of SBDC

investment in any one small business to \$2.5 million. This will enable more firms to take advantage of this program.

This budget helps to create new opportunities for young people and older workers; improves job access for women; helps the disadvantaged and the elderly to live independently in their communities; strengthens the role of our learning institutions; helps our small businesses to grow and our large firms to innovate; encourages enterprise and entrepreneurship; and faces up to the reality of change and deals with it. The Treasurer is reaffirming our commitment to restraint. He is avoiding significant tax increases and he will reduce the deficit.

In summary, this budget will help the older unemployed worker in Lakeshore; it will help the young unemployed worker and the single disadvantaged woman there; it will help the elderly to stay in their homes in Lakeshore; it will help the small businesses in that area; it will help the person who wants to return to school and upgrade his qualifications in Lakeshore; and it will help the taxpayers there because the Treasurer has not increased taxes.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to stand in the House this afternoon to address some comments with respect to the budget delivered not so long ago by a new Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). As a first-time effort, I suppose it is to be expected he may not have a grasp of the difficulties around the province that he should have taken into consideration before addressing his concerns about the expenditure of money in the province.

The budget is nothing but a reshuffling of old programs, setting out expenditures on some programs over a period of three to five years, and not coming to grips with the urgency of the circumstances of a good number of people in the riding of Huron-Bruce.

The member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) just spoke to us about what the budget was going to do for all his constituents. Although he may sincerely believe all his people are going to get all those great advantages, like the cartoon that portrayed the Treasurer floating by himself in a bubble somewhere in Never Never Land, the member for Lakeshore is somewhere off in the distance and out of touch with the reality that affects a good number of us from other areas of the province.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to some problems in the budget, addressing them specifically to the needs of my constituency.

The riding of Huron-Bruce consists of parts of the great county of Bruce and parts of the great county of Huron. It is well known for the production of some of the best beef anywhere in the world, some of the best grain corn and a good deal of the white bean production that goes on in this sector. It is also probably one of the areas most harshly dealt with by the economic circumstances in which Ontario finds itself.

I will also speak for a few moments about the budget's treatment of the tourist industry. The tourist industry has been held out in many sectors, particularly by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and various other people who go about the province spouting about the great things that are going to happen and should happen, as one of those industries that must be taken advantage of by many areas of the province that are not overly endowed with the extremely high investment dollars from industry proper, as it were, the manufacturing sector and otherwise.

First, let me get back to the agricultural section and then I will proceed to talk about tourism.

The budget has very little to say about agriculture. It starts by addressing two paragraphs out of some 20 pages of writing towards an industry that is described as an industry in transition. After having made such a bold comment about what I see as the most vital segment of our economy, it discusses nothing about where that very important industry is heading, how it is being transformed or how it is going to be developed into something new and virile in the economic life of Ontario. In fact, after making that statement, there is nothing to indicate what the Treasurer, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell), the Premier (Mr. Davis) or anyone sees as the future of agriculture in this fine province.

One would have to indicate that is a very serious flaw indeed. How in the world can the government commit itself to the expenditure of funds if it does not know what it will end up with as a final product?

4:20 p.m.

It is a most urgent need of this government to address itself to exactly what it does mean when it says it is addressing the problems of agriculture. It has to be indicated by the Minister of Agriculture and Food or by someone who speaks with a voice of authority, from knowledge and from caring, as to what the government is planning to develop for the agricultural sector of this province.

Bruce county is particularly hard hit by some of the very nasty economic situations with which

we have been confronted. Bruce county is the home of some of the most dedicated, hardworking farm people one will ever find anywhere in the world, let alone in Ontario. They know how to produce and compete against the production of other areas if they are able and allowed to do so on the same footing as people from other areas.

That situation is a luxury now for the province and we have not been able to come up with it. In the last number of years we have seen the influx of a good number of dollars from governments assisting their producers. For instance, in Quebec each farmer is subsidized on average to the tune of about \$8,358. This is not so in Ontario. In addition, there are subsidy programs in such other provinces as Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia.

On the international scene we see massive influxes of money from the United States government to its farm people. If things were not bad enough in competing in North America, we have on top of that the European Economic Community supporting its farmers to the tune of billions of dollars.

In Ontario we do not provide assistance to cushion the long-term problem of unstable interest rates. We cannot call on payments to stabilize our red meat industry. In short, there is nothing in this budget that addresses the very problems the people in the riding of Huron-Bruce, and particularly the people in the beef and hog industries, are experiencing right now.

Our calls for assistance for those people have gone largely unheeded. It would be of interest to us all if we could find out what people in my riding think about the current stance of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. For the benefit of those people who are here this afternoon, I would like to read a few short excerpts from a letter I received from Brian Ireland, a constituent of mine, a member of the executive of the Bruce County Federation of Agriculture, an active farm person from Bruce county and one who has become upset with the lack of assistance from the Ontario government over the last number of months. I will start off by reading just a very short passage:

"Dear Mr. Timbrell"—this letter was originally addressed to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and I am quoting:

"Harry Pellisaro sent me a copy of your reply to him regarding the retroactive stabilization resolution passed by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture board on April 18. Your reply is of special interest to me since I was instrumental in bringing the resolution to provincial meetings. I

have been a provincial director of OFA for numerous years and represent the county of Bruce.

"The fact that the board did pass the resolution should tell you something. The fact that it passed with an overwhelming majority should concern you. Your reply, in my mind, reinforced the gist of the resolution that we need some action or that you resign. Your answer clearly indicated that you do not have the best interests of farmers at heart and are again totally disregarding the severity of the problem.

"The resolution in no way intimidated a demand for stabilization that would be an incentive to produce more. The resolution demanded a retroactive payment for past production, not for future."

This producer goes on to indicate that the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program and the minister's preoccupation with the tripartite stabilization program and the sow-weaner stabilization program have been of little assistance to him and many like him in the county of Bruce and throughout Ontario.

He sums up by saying there are opportunities for farmers who are not able to continue on the land, who go bankrupt or who voluntarily remove themselves from the land. Those opportunities really are as farm managers rather than as any other type of farmer. In other words, he is not going to be his own owner-operator. He is going to have to manage for somebody else.

There is a statement that is telling with respect to the feeling of a good number of my constituents: "How ironic that after several generations of producing food for our nation we have now the unique opportunity of being hired for the farms our forefathers carved out of crown land."

That is the bleak future for the farming people in my riding and for farming people in other ridings around the province. It is the opportunity of becoming almost a bondservant in the tradition of those people who came out from the old country and contracted to serve for a good number of years before they were allowed to go free. It seems to me that this budget does nothing to provide people such as this constituent of mine with the type of program they need to ensure their survival as farmers in the province.

I would like for a moment to turn away from the question of the red meat industry. I should make one more comment before I get away from this industry. So far this year, just to underscore the severity of the situation, of the Farm Credit Corp. loans that are outstanding in Bruce

county—as members know, this is a federal institution—some 30 per cent are in arrears. That should tell us something about the problems that are facing us.

In addition, there are some 150,000 units of beef capable of being produced in feedlots in Bruce county. Of those 150,000 units, approximately 50,000 units are in danger of being lost almost immediately if something is not done. I think this underscores the type of loss that not only the farmers of Bruce county are going to feel but the whole province is going to feel if something is not done.

I will go ahead with another part of agriculture which is not really spoken about very often and for which there is very little help. I want to comment on the problems that are experienced by farm families and in particular the problems experienced by farm women as they deal with the same financial and economic hardships that have been foisted upon them by people who really have not seen their way clear to reduce the suffering that is going on in rural Ontario. If there is one area in which the budget could have spoken with respect to transition, it might very well have spoken a little bit about the changing role of the farm wife as it unfolds in the 1980s.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food has just released a study which indicated that 73 per cent of farm women are now in the work force. That probably will be up substantially, basically because most farm women were probably not counted as part of the work force since they were labouring at home. Most of those people are now forced into taking jobs outside the farm, not because they necessarily want to, although that is the case in some situations, but because they have to, because there has to be an off-farm income to help subsidize the farm operation from somewhere.

The report strongly recommended that more child care facilities be made available for rural households. The budget says there will be only 1,500 more places for day care in the province and, of those, about 1,000 or so places are required in Metropolitan Toronto. That does not really leave us very many to assist the people in rural Ontario in dealing with the problem of adjusting to off-farm labour requirements.

4:30 p.m.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food has been unable to persuade his friend the Treasurer to do anything about this. We have a small increase in the budget. I think the Minister of Agriculture and Food was bold enough to say it was about a 16 per cent increase over the expenditures made

in 1983-84. While that may be so, when his budget is about one per cent of the total provincial budget, 16 per cent of a one per cent budget does not seem to add up to too many dollars at all. There can be no support for that refusal to provide the dollars to meet the difficulties facing the people of Huron-Bruce and of rural ridings throughout Ontario.

As a party, the Liberals have recognized some of the difficulties. We have been out on the rural municipalities task force. We have talked with people at first hand. People have been coming to us because they have never before seen government members, members of the Ontario Legislature, coming out to talk to them about the problems that affect them.

We have put together several pieces of policy we think meet and address those problems. For instance, we have proposed emergency assistance for the red meat industry in Ontario. It is something we know is required if there is going to be any kind of functioning red meat program in Ontario to take advantage of the stabilization programs of which the Minister of Agriculture and Food speaks.

We have asked for funding for tile drainage loans. We have requested special attention to upgrading the lands in northern and eastern Ontario, programs that will provide some enthusiasm and some degree of hope for those people who are now in the farming industry and who see very little to interest them in this budget.

I would like to move very briefly to the tourism section of my reply. Tourism has been held out as one of the growing and glowing opportunities for communities throughout Ontario. In my area and in many like it, tourism is seen as a key industry and it will become a key industry if there is any assistance to us to develop it.

We have the makings of a very good infrastructure now with respect to facilities for camping. Fisherman's Cove is rated as one of the 12 largest camping facilities in Ontario. We have others along the shores of Lake Huron and up to Southampton where my riding stops. They can provide very good accommodation for people who want to visit our part of the country.

The tourism trade is worth some \$6.5 billion in this province and accounts for upwards of 350,000 to 400,000 jobs. However, we have found this industry has fallen from being the second-largest industry in the province to being third, behind the chemicals and automobile industries. The tourism deficit is rising. In 1980 we had a return from tourism of \$392 million. In 1981 that return was \$328 million. In 1982 it

looks as if we are going to find ourselves in a worse position than ever.

The Treasurer might argue that one of the reasons for the shrinking return from tourism is that fewer people in the province are travelling. People are not taking advantage of some of the opportunities his budget gives them. I would like to talk for a moment about the types of opportunities this Treasurer supports as the successor to other Treasurers over the last several decades.

He provides tourists from outside Ontario with the opportunity to pay seven per cent sales tax on a lot of items that are not taxed in other provinces. He provides tourists from outside the area with the chance to pay not only a sales tax on the hospitality industry for the serving of beverages and meals, but also the markup imposed by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. He provides tourists with the opportunity to pay the ad valorem tax on gasoline.

It is to be noted that people will go to places such as New York state to buy some beverages. They will go to Quebec and to the United States to buy fuels which are less expensive. They pay a tax in Ontario of some five per cent on rooms and now the Treasurer says he will give them back that money if they go home and apply for it from there. That is very little incentive towards assisting our tourist industry.

What is there specifically that would provide the tourist industry in Ontario with some hope that it is going to be given a boost by this budget? It does not seem to me that we are going to be taking advantage at all of the 30 per cent premium the American dollar now has over the Canadian dollar. We are not taking advantage of the traffic across the border which could be ours if the minister decided to provide some sort of program to assist our tourist industry. I refer to a program that would provide the very basic services at reasonable prices that all tourists would really like to see.

How can we take advantage of providing the tourists in our area with the opportunity to tour the Bruce county museum and the marine museum in Southampton? How can we provide them with the opportunity to tour the Pine River cheese factory? It was built specifically to accommodate large numbers of tourists so that people could find out what is happening in the cheese industry. How can we take advantage of getting those people into our area to tour sites such as the Bruce nuclear power development so they can see at first hand what is happening in the production of electricity from these large sites?

How can we get people into our area? How can we attract them to stay there? How can we provide the facilities they would like to see when there are no programs which specifically set out assistance to our tourist industry that would make it reasonable for the tourists of our province and those from out of province to stay with us for a while?

The member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) has pointed out positive changes that could be made to the tourism budget. First, he suggested a permanent extension of the provincial sales tax refund. That would cost only about \$750,000 and generate 100,000 additional room-night rentals. It is a very sensible suggestion, and I have always found his suggestions to be sensible.

He also recommended elimination of the provincial gallage fees for licensed establishments. We should consider that no other province in this fair land of ours has such a charge, yet Ontario does.

Such changes would recognize the important multiplier effect of the tourism industry. They would provide the tourist operators with a sort of gut feeling of having some hope of being able to get ahead in the business. But this budget fails to recognize that this is a possibility. It fails to do anything to assist an industry which is falling backwards in terms of a net return to this province. Their situation is somewhat similar to that of the people who are in the agricultural industry in our province.

4:40 p.m.

To digress a moment or two, it seems to me that this government is trying to tell the people from my area they are no longer needed as a vital part of our economy. If this is so, if the government does not want us to participate as tourist operators or as people who are owners or operators of farms, agricultural operations and businesses in this province, I wish it would say so directly. That would be better than choking us off bit by bit, little by little, by refusing to provide us with some hope, by refusing to provide us with the type of assistance and support we need if we are going to continue at all.

It seems to me that this government is slowly but surely removing from the operation of the economy these very important sectors. I believe the Treasurer is one of the leaders in trying to fool the people of Ontario into believing there is a commitment to any part of agriculture or tourism.

If he feels I am wrong, I want to challenge him to come out and provide those services for tourist industry operators and for the farmers in my area.

That would show me wrong. I would like to see him provide those programs and provide the dollars and cents figures for me so that I can take them home to my constituents to show exactly where the people of my area are going to find any benefit out of becoming involved in the programs talked about in the budget.

I do not see any and, to be quite honest, I think it is time the Treasurer and others in that government admit that concern for areas outside the large urban centres has waned substantially over the last number of years and that they no longer place a high value on the businesses of agriculture and tourism.

I would like to turn for a moment to the particular area of criticism I have in this Legislature with respect to the Ministry of the Environment. I would like to comment on the fact that since the 1982-83 budget year, we have fallen consistently with respect to the commitment of dollars to the Ministry of the Environment. In 1982-83, some \$341 million was budgeted; in 1983-84, some \$331 million was spent; in 1984-85, under this current Treasurer, only \$312 million is designated for the Ministry of the Environment.

There are several problems I do not see us dealing with when we keep cutting back our budget. Not long ago I listed for the benefit of the public some of the problems we have to face in Ontario. What are we going to do about meeting the recommendations of the study on the Upper Ottawa Street dump? What are we going to do to implement the recommendations of the task force report on abatement options at Sudbury with respect to the critical and vital problem of acid rain?

As the members will remember, earlier in question period today I requested the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) to fulfil a promise made as to the installation of scrubbers on the facilities of Ontario Hydro. They might also remember that I had thought originally the Premier had actually made that commitment himself but discovered that the Lieutenant Governor of the province had indicated on March 9, 1982, among other things:

"My government remains firmly committed to having Ontario Hydro reduce the acid gas emissions from its coal-fired generating stations by half by the year 1990. As a public corporation, Ontario Hydro must set an example for others to follow. Hydro will undertake whatever steps are necessary to meet the emission levels stipulated in the government's regulation. These steps will include designing and retrofitting scrubbers,

installing some 700 special burners, increasing use of blended and low-sulphur coal, and replacing coal generation with new nuclear and hydraulic energy."

I want to bring to the attention of the members that this was a commitment made in the throne speech of March 9, 1982, and it comes from the representative of Her Majesty on the advice of the executive council of this fair province. To date we have not heard any indication that those scrubbers are going to be installed. In fact, we have heard they are no longer needed because of various occurrences.

As I told this august body earlier in the day, we have problems when we go into the international field trying to make the argument that we are reducing our sulphur dioxide emissions when the government's own crown corporation is seen to be increasing its emissions rather than controlling them.

With respect to a budget that has been cut back to \$312 million, there is no leeway to develop programs to meet the perception in international fields that Ontario is falling behind. Whether the total emissions have fallen or risen in the overall Ontario scene does not matter to people in other areas when they become viciously involved in partisan issues in their own political arenas. They point to Ontario and, with derision, ask us how we can come to them and ask for cuts when we are continuing to increase the emissions.

In my release after the budget, I went on to discuss questions with respect to cleaning up the Perkinsfields and Stouffvilles of this province. How can we deal with these when we are cut back? How can we deal with providing cleanup operations for polluted beaches in this province? How can we implement the recommendation of the blueprint for waste management in Ontario?

How can we do these very important things when we see that the funding level for the Ministry of the Environment keeps sliding year after year, and every year the issues of clean drinking water, pollution by chemical poisons of Lake Ontario and the creeping pollution of the subsoil and the water supplies of the people of Ontario keep mounting and becoming more critical?

There is nothing in this budget that looks anywhere close to providing the Ministry of the Environment with the necessary tools to do a job for the people of this province, a job that is ever more increasingly critical for the welfare and long-term survival of our province.

Even though the member for Lakeshore thought there was a great deal of assistance to the

constituents of his riding, there is no help for them when it comes to dealing with the new issues that are going to be generated by the unregulated and unmonitored activities of those polluters who have not been chased by the Ministry of the Environment up to this date.

Mr. Nixon: Thank God for Charles Caccia.

Mr. Elston: The honourable member speaks of a well-known member of the federal cabinet, Mr. Caccia, the Minister of Environment Canada. He and his assistant form a very dynamic team with respect to helping maintain the integrity of the environment and taking steps to clean our beaches and our waters.

Mr. McClellan: Dynamic? Charles Caccia is the most undynamic person I have ever met.

Mr. Elston: The member for Bellwoods has just indicated that the Minister of Environment Canada is the most dynamic person with whom he has ever crossed paths. I think that is an indication of the quality of the person for which Mr. Caccia is known.

Mr. McClellan: I said "undynamic"—the opposite of dynamic. He is de-dynamic.

Mr. Elston: I am sure the member for Bellwoods would want to indicate he is in favour of the steps taken by the Minister of Environment Canada.

Mr. McClellan: If I knew that he had done anything, I certainly would be.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. McClellan: He is putting words in my mouth.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to put words in his mouth. He can tell us all a little later—

The Acting Speaker: You will to speak to the motion.

Mr. Elston: —so I will continue on. I want to say a couple of things further about the budget with respect to some of the parts that I hope will be of benefit to our area.

The budget deals specifically with money for homes for battered wives. As a result of studies in our area, there is a need with respect to providing some funding for the alleviation of the social difficulties which the hard financial problems of our time have placed on the people of the riding of Huron-Bruce.

4:50 p.m.

For instance, in Bruce county, from one end of my riding to the other—actually from Huron, which is roughly Highway 8, to Southampton, I guess it is—there are only two houses that women

can use if they have the need. One is located in Owen Sound and the other in Vanastra. For most of the ladies in my area, it is just not possible for them to move. It is too far for them to take advantage of the program.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Owen Sound is centrally located.

Mr. Elston: The Provincial Secretary for Justice just interjected something about Owen Sound. I did not hear it.

The Acting Speaker: Do not allow yourself to be distracted by it.

Hon. Mr. Walker: It is not a distraction.

The Acting Speaker: You are not speaking.

Mr. Elston: For instance, we have some information with respect to domestic disputes in Bruce county. We have reports from the Ontario Provincial Police in Walkerton, and the police from Wiarton and Kincardine, that there were some 79 calls concerning violent domestic disturbances. Those areas cover roughly one third of the Bruce county area. If we use these figures as a basis to project the number of violent domestic disputes, there are some 200 cases in the whole of Bruce county which have to have access to that one home in Owen Sound, which happens to be located in the great county of Grey.

Mr. Nixon: Thank God for Eddie Sargent.

Mr. Elston: You cannot beat Eddie Sargent.

The problem is that it is very expensive to set up homes like this. In my riding, we are looking at the possibility of a full-time home in Kincardine. We need between \$65,000 and \$130,000 to deal with the creation of a haven for those who suffer the problems of domestic violence.

I would like to sum up by saying there are definitely a number of areas the Treasurer did not take seriously enough with respect to the problems that exist, from financial and social standpoints, in areas I represent and probably in areas that other members represent.

It is obvious the Treasurer did not see his way clear to providing help for agriculture and tourism, as I outlined earlier. There is no indication that there is going to be any new initiative to attract business around the Bruce nuclear power development which is required to make the Bruce Energy Centre a reality, at least before the next election.

There is nothing to indicate that the Treasurer is in any way going to try to assist that great crown corporation, Ontario Hydro, to keep its own expenditures in line. He has increased its costs by an estimated \$44 million by increasing its rent for water resources in this province. This

is being done at a time when he says he is practising restraint. What he is doing is putting a new tax on the people of Ontario through his Ontario corporation.

It seems to me this budget can be described as a nonbudget. There are lots of things for people in it. People could be deceived into thinking they are there. There is no tax increase, at least perceived, and yet the minister has told us he will find some extra \$1 billion from personal income taxes.

He tells us today there are some expenditures for the purposes of agriculture which are not even outlined in his budget. He explains to us further that the way he has made these expenditures is by not taxing such things as chemicals, farm equipment and other items. He says if the government had a tax on them, they would generate some income. The government does not have a tax on them, therefore they consider that as a tax expenditure.

The people in the riding of Huron-Bruce will not fall for that sort of malarkey. They will not believe the minister when he says he has committed those millions of dollars of funds by not taxing them. He is trying to pass off a bit of a charade on the people of Ontario by not dealing with a number of very critical problems which face us.

He is not dealing with the question of the economic calamity that has befallen agriculture. He is not facing the problems of developing a new and fledgling business of tourism in areas such as the region of Huron-Bruce. Those types of programs which are needed to help the people in my riding are totally lacking from this budget. There is nothing in here that would provide us with any ability to see that we are going to survive and thrive in the very near future.

This is not a budget for the people of Ontario. This is a budget for the Treasurer so he can propel himself out of controversy, away from difficulties and away from dealing with delegates. It is a budget designed to protect one person, the Treasurer, and no other person.

He has dumped on the Minister of Agriculture and Food by underfunding his ministry, and he has dumped on the Minister of the Environment by failing to fund him. He is putting out a call for volunteers throughout Ontario to come to the aid of every program that has been set up by every government ministry in the province. The great call throughout the province is, "Volunteers come forth and help us out."

I have heard the advertisements on the great media stations from the city of Kitchener,

lauding the volunteers. I saw a program just recently on the great assistance the hospital auxiliaries are providing hospitals, an incalculable volunteer service in value of dollars added to the benefits of the hospitals. It is a service without which the hospitals could not function. They are asking for volunteers to take over some recreation programs. They are asking for volunteer dollars to help fund some programs in my area which have been cut back in expenditures because of a decrease in dollars for Experience '84.

Everywhere the people in Ontario are having to volunteer to bail out this government from the irresponsible expenditures made heretofore. The only way a good number of the programs that have been put in place by the various ministries can hope to survive is through the largess of the public in general. Unfortunately, it speaks poorly of this budget that it does not take into consideration the fact that more dollars are required to help the people of my area and of other areas to survive so they can volunteer to bail this government out of further fiascos.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for listening to me this afternoon. I trust the Treasurer will address himself to the problems that remain unanswered after his budget.

5 p.m.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to speaking briefly in the budget debate, because I assume the next time I speak in a budget debate it will be to a new parliament.

Mr. Nixon: You may be Treasurer.

Mr. Renwick: I may well be.

This is, as the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) keeps reminding us, a time of change. It is a time particularly of change in political leadership, likely a change in political leadership of the Conservative Party in Ontario coupled with a change in the leadership of the federal Liberal Party and the change that has already taken place in the leadership of the federal Conservative Party.

I suppose it is mainly for that reason I wanted to speak today about some fundamental and basic concerns in my mind about Canada, about Ontario and about where we are now. As I read the budget statement and as I listened to the budget as it was delivered by the Treasurer, I found myself saying, "How could it be that a Treasurer of Ontario could stand in his place and deliver a budget statement which acknowledged the level of unemployment in the province will remain at the high level it is at present—and if the projections of the federal government and this

Treasurer are correct, it will likely remain at that level through the greater part of this decade—and compliment himself at the same time on the contribution he has made to dealing with that question of employment?"

The numbers are obvious and known to everyone. We are talking, give or take, about nine per cent of the working population of Ontario being unemployed and continuing to be unemployed for a significant time. We are talking, in real figures, of about 450,000 people unemployed, of whom 150,000 or 160,000 are classified as young people. A substantial number of the balance are persons who have been laid off work in the latter years of their working lives. Those are concerns which leave me with the impression the government has a degree of callousness, indifference and incapacity to face up to a reality.

It is customary now in bad times to say no one is fundamentally concerned about unemployment unless one happens to be one of the unemployed. I do not happen to believe the conscience of the country or this society permits any such blasé assumption about people's concerns on job creation, job security, training and retraining and all the things which go with a sensitive approach to a serious economic concern. No one underestimates the complexity of the problem. In a few minutes, I trust I will come back to that question.

I was somewhat intrigued as I read the budget and the autumn prebudget statement given by the Treasurer in the assembly on December 15 of last year. I was struck by the strange response of the media. I do not understand whether the budget meant nothing to them and therefore they had to create a story out of thin air, but all of us will have seen comments in the press such as: "Did the Treasurer fool us? Did he set us up?"

It seemed to be the one consistent theme the media transmitted about the budget. There were articles and headlines in the press about it. There were comments on the radio. There were columns in the *Globe and Mail* on the question that somehow or other the Treasurer had set them up and then did not produce what he had created in their minds.

It is impossible to read the statement of December 15, 1983, and not understand that the budget the Treasurer presented to this assembly was totally consistent with that statement. If one read that statement, one could come to the conclusion—subject to the reservations the Treasurer made at that time, none of which were

fulfilled—that the budget we got was exactly the budget he told us in December we would get.

I find it passing strange that budgetary comment would not have noticed the similarity between the statement he made in the assembly and the budget he introduced five months later. All of the main questions were answered in that statement. There were one or two reservations, and they did not come into play. Therefore the Treasurer was able to produce a budget totally consistent with the statement he made some months ago.

There is a certain caution in the figures he used, but by and large the figures on the anticipated growth are identical with respect to employment, to concern about interest and to the deficit. All those matters, in the direction he was moving, were very clear.

He made one reservation—that there be no significant change in the federal position. When Mr. Lalonde introduced his budget in February, the Treasurer continued on his course in parallel with the federal government.

That is my first point about the political leadership of the country. The alliance that now exists between the Conservative Party as the government of Ontario and the Liberal Party as the government of Canada, and the business and financial community, the people who actually run the country at the present time, is very firm. It is so structured and so sound that the budget the Treasurer presented in this assembly is totally consistent with the budget the Minister of Finance produced in the House of Commons in February.

It is totally inconsistent with the budgets that were presented by the predecessor of Mr. Lalonde as the Minister of Finance, Mr. MacEachen. It is interesting to note that the financial and business communities forced Mr. MacEachen into line in the same way as they forced Mr. Crosbie into line. It is quite interesting that this government, which is always speaking about supporting its federal counterpart, contributed substantially to the fall of the Progressive Conservative government under the then Prime Minister Clark.

They are not going to have a problem this time with the federal Conservative Party under the leadership of Brian Mulroney. They have a leader who is consistent with the likely leader of the Liberal Party, John Turner. They are both aligned to the business and financial community in a way that makes them indistinguishable in the policies we can expect. Those Conservatives who stand for Canada, with those in the New

Democratic Party and in the Liberal Party leadership race, of whom the pre-eminent one is Jean Chrétien, are few in number.

My principal concern is the subtle, slow slide into integration with the United States. I read this weekend, with some concern, the article in the newspaper by Joe Schlesinger about the embassy in Washington. I want to read a few paragraphs of that article into the record because it reflects the concern I have as to where the country is going.

The architect is the world-famous Arthur Erickson. Joe Schlesinger, the CBC-TV correspondent based in Washington, had this to say in the *Star* on Saturday in a column on foreign affairs:

“To architect Arthur Erickson, there is nothing particularly Canadian about his design for the new Canadian embassy here. The style of the building, he says, is international.

“Technically and artistically, Erickson is undoubtedly right. But when you look at the embassy’s location and how Erickson adapted his design to it, you begin to see that it says a lot about Canada and our relationship with the United States.

“First, there is the location—a unique and magnificent site. The embassy will be built in the next couple of years on Pennsylvania Avenue along the wide ceremonial route of American presidents between the US Congress and the White House.

“Construction along that stretch of the avenue is tightly controlled by presidential commission. It took approval from on high to allow Canada to purchase the site and build there.

5:10 p.m.

“No other foreign government has been—nor apparently will be—allowed to build along this stretch of historically hallowed ground. All other embassies in Washington are kept well away from the governmental centre of the city.

“That makes Canada’s presence on Pennsylvania Avenue an extraordinary gesture of American goodwill and a symbol of the closeness and friendliness of relations between the two countries.

“But when you take a second look, you see another aspect: Canada’s embassy will be surrounded by agencies of the US government.

“Within a few blocks of the site of the new embassy is the looming presence of the US Capitol, the Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Archives, the National Gallery, the US Internal Revenue Service, the federal courthouse, the Federal

Trade Commission and many other of Uncle Sam's children.

"A Martian wandering along Pennsylvania Avenue a few years hence might be forgiven if he concludes that, among all these US federal government structures the building with the signs 'Embassy of Canada—Ambassade du Canada' is just another agency of the US government.

"Non-Martians may know better, but they may also wonder how much of this unique cosiness can be accounted for solely by feelings of neighbourly affection.

"Some of the more sceptical or cynical among them, Canadians and Americans included, may be driven to speculate on how much Canada's departure from Embassy Row to Government Centre is a reflection of a Canadian dependence on US power.

"Erickson's design, if not deferential, is certainly respectful of all the centres of power around it. The cornice line is set so as not to overpower its neighbours.

"The design pays obeisance to both the prowlike sharp modernist lines of the east wing of the National Gallery to the east of it and the traditional pillared colonnade of the Federal Trade Commission building to the west.

"It fits in perfectly with its surroundings. It is a good design—good enough to make any Canadian proud."

I am not going to read the rest of the article; I trust that others will. But it typifies for me the concern I have about a ground swell of discussion and concern with our focus on economic matters, which leads me to believe that only by direct leadership by the federal government in the country and direct support by the Ontario government of the federal government are we going to be able to clear sightedly establish and maintain the kind of economic independence that is an essential ingredient to political sovereignty.

If I had occasion and if I had the time to do so, I would want to draw to the attention of the assembly the exchange, for example, that took place between Edwin Goodman and John Crosbie at the time of the leadership contest for the federal Conservative Party. Edwin Goodman wrote an open letter to John Crosbie with respect to the whole question of Crosbie's believed-to-be position on free trade with the United States, and Edwin Goodman's letter to John Crosbie tried to point out very clearly the tradition of the Conservative Party with respect to the independence of Canada and its economic independence in the policy of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Mr. Crosbie wrote back saying that Mr. Goodman had distorted his views and that a significant misrepresentation had taken place, and he did not bother to answer the major points Mr. Goodman made in his letter.

I do not use their names because they are particularly Conservative persons. However, I did notice in an issue of *Policy Options* magazine, which came across our desks quite recently, Darcy McKeough indicated one of his items for the economics of a new government would be that "we must concentrate on expanding trade with the USA including selective expressions of free trade." In the latter part of his article he says:

"Next on my list is the expansion of trade with the United States. We should indeed be aiming at expanding trade wherever we can. But the greatest opportunity for quick growth in exports is undoubtedly in the USA, the friendliest and most receptive and best understood market available to us. Fortunately, the paranoia that has gripped some people at the thought of closer trading relationships with the USA seems to be subsiding. I think we should get down to brass tacks on sectoral free trade. We should identify the industries where, to our mutual benefit, we can reduce or eliminate the barriers between the USA and Canada."

That is from the vaunted former Treasurer of this province and a respected member of the Conservative Party, who seems to misunderstand the slippery slope of integration into the United States on an economic level, which will ultimately mean on a political level.

Mr. Haggerty: It is all right to have free trade; but fair trade, this is the point they missed.

Mr. Renwick: Right. Since the turn into this decade, there has been a continuing emphasis in everything we read away from the attempt to establish our position, either in the European common market or on the Pacific Rim, both with some obvious exceptions.

The basic thrust of the economic policies of this province, the pivotal province in the country, a province with immense authority on the federal level with respect to its views, is to move gradually and slowly to an integration with the United States. I do not believe it is in the interests of Canada, nor do I believe it is in the interests of any of the people in Ontario, that such integration should take place. Yet there is not a single businessman now standing in his place and suggesting alternative policies.

Honourable members can understand the immense attack made on the national energy

policy when it was put forward a few years ago in the federal budget, I believe in 1980, by then Finance minister J. Allan MacEachen. That attack was directed towards something I would have assumed was an essential ingredient to the independence of Canada: the security of supply of energy in the country. That may involve a lot of problems within the country, and we have certainly faced up to a significant number of those problems, but that national energy policy found itself confronted with the massed weight of something called the "business community in Canada and the business community in the United States." Therefore we do not any longer have any real debate about energy policy in this assembly.

Not so very long ago in the early part of this decade, one of the major, fundamental questions was whether or not by 1990 there could be energy self-sufficiency in Canada. I have not heard that discussed, thought about, commented upon or considered for a significant period of time. I do not pretend to know anything about the details of all the economics behind that proposition, but I want the members to believe we will not have a Canada of the kind essential to preserve unless we are prepared to debate again the question of energy self-sufficiency by 1990.

Are we prepared to pay the price? Or should we, as the spokesmen for the Fraser Institute say, treat it as we treat oranges and lettuce and apples or whatever else. If we can get it on the international market, why pay the extra price? I say to the assembly, in the area of energy policy we have to pay that extra price.

5:20 p.m.

We have to pay another extra price to which this budget and this government does not at any time address its attention, and that is the deficit on the current balance of payments for Canada. I am not talking about the current balance of payments on merchandise trade; I am talking about the current economic balance of payments overall. I would like to quote this brief paragraph.

"The two broad components of the current account behave differently. Merchandise trade continued to provide a substantial surplus, the traditional pattern for Canada. Since 1973 this surplus has been inadequate to cover services and transfers, particularly increasing expenditures by Canadians on travel abroad"—and the point I want to make—"and higher interest and dividend payments to nonresident suppliers of capital for investment and for public borrowing. The Woods Gordon long-range economic forecast

projects a deficit on current account of almost \$11 billion in 1985."

That is another item on the agenda of concerns I have that are not being addressed by a government in Ontario which carries such tremendous clout on the decisions made at the federal level.

Let me move to another area, the question of tax reform. I was most interested in the strange exchange that took place between the Treasurer and the leader of the New Democratic Party, the member for York South (Mr. Rae) and the deputy leader of the New Democratic Party, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) this afternoon on questions of tax incentives, tax loopholes or tax expenditures, whatever the esoteric terms may be that can be applied to them in the course of the work which is before the assembly in consideration of the budget.

I try never to go back in time beyond this decade. A good starting point was the budget statement made by the then Treasurer, the present Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) when he spoke in the kick-off speech on Thursday, November 13, 1980, the kick-off to the 1981 election which brought that illustrious row of back-benchers into the ranks of the Conservative Party in this assembly.

I have not heard since about the study the Treasurer emphasized was going to be made at that time on the question of the relationship between performance and tax incentives. I want to quote what he said in the assembly on November 13, 1980, about the whole question of focusing tax incentives to produce a performance of the goals which the incentives are designed to achieve.

The then Treasurer had this to say: "Ontario's tax incentives are an integral part of the tax structure. Tax expenditures, as they are popularly called, are not directly equivalent to spending programs. A dollar given up by a tax incentive is not necessarily the same as a dollar given in a grant." Some of us find it difficult to understand that particular legerdemain.

"Tax incentives are fundamentally important in establishing a competitive tax structure and achieving our economic goals. It is important that these incentives be closely examined in the context of the economy's structural difficulties to ensure they are cost-effective and efficient. My ministry reviews our incentive programs on an ongoing basis. These reviews are carefully done and are instructive. However, I believe a more comprehensive analysis should now be under-

taken and I have instructed my staff to commence this review immediately.

"I would like, in so far as possible, to concentrate our tax incentives more selectively in areas with the greatest promise and that offer the biggest potential economic gains. For example, I believe we should do more to encourage...." He goes on to list the areas he wants to encourage.

I have never seen that study about the impact of incentives with respect to the achievement of the goals established by the province. Behind all the semantics that go on in talking about this, it seems to me that the fundamental flaw in the budget presented to us by the Treasurer the other day was the relationship between jobs and the programs that are going to be introduced.

He started immediately with an admission of failure by saying that when all of the programs are in place there will still continue to be, for the next two, three or four years if the projections are correct, an unemployment rate of 9.1 per cent or 450,000 people. He started with that admission of failure, and we began to understand how casual the government's position is. It is more concerned with catchy phrases to describe the programs that are supposed to benefit older workers and young people in their search for employment.

As usual I owe a debt to legislative library research. I did try to have some work done for me on the question of what the Ontario Manpower Commission has accomplished since it was established in 1979 for the purpose of matching employment needs in the province with skills in trade. One report, of a number that have been made, is Industrial Training for High-Level Skills, which was published in June 1983 by the Ontario Manpower Commission.

The report tried to indicate the kinds of problems facing our society. In its analysis and conclusions, participation by industry was said to be abysmally low. The bigger corporations are very little interested in this kind of skills-matching and skills-training and very certain that, regardless of what may happen in the employment market, the continuing mismatching of skills will be evident in this society.

I could go on at some length on the question of what is in the Ontario Manpower Commission's reports. The commission has been in position since 1979. There is a commissioner in charge and an advisory body of other persons. It has a significant research function going on. Yet its reports indicate it has little, if any, clout in the cabinet of the province. There is little, if

anything, one can say has been or will be accomplished by the manpower commission.

I am not a naysayer. We raised serious questions about the struggle at that time between the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Labour as to which would be in charge on the question of matching, but we are still bedevilled by that same problem.

It is all very well for the Treasurer to talk at length about change and how we must adapt to change in our high-technology society, about what is going to happen to our traditional industries and what we have to do in order to be able to adapt to what he called "the transformation of the society which is taking place."

Very briefly, without going into any details, if we do not very soon have a committee of this assembly struck for the purpose of looking into the co-ordination in this government of so-called job-creation programs, so-called training programs, in-plant skills-training programs, all the paraphernalia of studies that are supposed to have gone on and, identified with that, the question of whether the programs in place or being put in place by this government will achieve the goals of providing that employment, then we will be seriously in default.

5:30 p.m.

I call upon the Treasurer and upon all those who are interested in this fundamental problem. This assembly must have a committee which, if it were struck now as a select committee, could report when the House resumes its deliberations, if we can call them that, next October. At that time we would have a report of a committee of this assembly that would hear representations that would answer some of the major unanswered questions about jobs, job creation, skills, skills-training, the new society we are entering and the role that has to be played, so we could in some way mediate with the government of the province in trying to clarify what is taking place.

The last problem and the most serious problem I found with the budget is that one can go back to all the budgets of recent parliaments, both federal and provincial, and it would be impossible for anybody to tell whether or not performance has taken place. The only numbers that appear to matter are the Statistics Canada numbers. If they turn up, that is for the government's good; if they turn down, then the government is not to blame.

The mishmash of programs, policies and periods of job creation and production defy analysis. The only clear fact is the sad fact, the callous fact that with all the efforts this government believes itself to be making, unemployment

will not be altered in any respect during the course of this particular parliament. It has been a disaster for working people. When the next parliament assembles in 1985, it will be faced with the same level of unemployment.

In a very brief way I want to deal with a matter of immense concern to me. I do not often speak about matters I know very little about, but I had occasion to read the Ontario Labour Relations Board's decision when Mr. Stanley Gray brought a complaint against Mr. L. D. Bergie before the board as a result of an extended hearing with respect to the safety of occupations at Westinghouse Canada Inc.

I raise this matter because I do not believe people quite understand what happened. There were a series of hearings dealing with a number of incidents at that plant over time. At the beginning of the hearings, objections were made to jurisdiction, to whether or not the complaint could be heard by the labour relations board, as to whether or not Mr. Bergie could be sued and all of those questions. For reasons no one knows, the labour relations board deferred its decision on its jurisdictional matters until the very end and then made the strange remark that it would not be dealing with the jurisdictional question because it had decided to dismiss the claim.

It takes even a lawyer more Jesuitical than myself to understand how one gets through that kind of reasoning. I do not understand it. I do not understand how a board can say there are serious questions of jurisdiction, on the one hand, and then say it will not deal with the jurisdictional questions because it is going to dismiss the complaint, when it has heard the whole series of evidence about the complaint. The reason given means that for practical purposes, unless one is foolhardy, it is unlikely such a complaint will ever again be brought before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

For that reason it is essential that I put before the assembly very briefly what the problem was. There was no question about the credibility of the evidence; the board accepted the credibility of the evidence. The board at one particular point wanted to deal with this whole question of joint health and safety committees on the one hand, as provided by the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and on the other hand the obligations with respect to inspection and enforcement on the Ministry of Labour. That was the problem and that problem remains now for this assembly to solve.

I can assure the House that if one takes the trouble just to read the problems that were faced

by the working people in the plant at Westinghouse with respect to stopblocks, which is one of the few esoteric matters I could understand, one would realize there was something seriously and fundamentally wrong.

What the board appeared to say was that the joint health and safety committees were to function until the outer limits were reached. What those outer limits were was a matter of judgement in each case. What the outer limits meant was that the time would come when the enforcement provisions would be exercised by the ministry.

This is a catch 22. This was not the intention of the assembly when we passed that piece of legislation. The Ministry of Labour now refers to it as the internal responsibility system. We can go through the whole of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and we will never find the phrase "internal responsibility system." We will find a joint committee established with an adversarial content of management and workers. We will find the only people who can implement the changes that are required to make the working place safe are the management, not the workers.

The setup of the act is that the ministry, in its inspections and in its work of providing a safe place for working people in the plants of the province, will do the enforcement and the inspection. They will carry it out. The talk about an outer limit is something I find somewhat difficult to understand.

I do not want to go on too long on matters such as this, as is my wont. However, because we had some difficulty doing so recently in the committee, I did want to place this before the assembly.

Behind all this is an inherent contradiction that is built into the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The act itself makes no reference to internal responsibility and it reflects the adversarial relationships between employer and employee in its keystone structure, the bipartite joint committee, but the committee itself has no real enforcement authority. Without voluntary compliance by the employer, enforcement is up to the ministry; yet the ministry interprets its role as being primarily one of mediator and facilitator in easing conflicts between the workers and employers.

It is unrealistic to think that health and safety enforcement can escape the adversarial relationships. Measures to protect and improve health and safety usually involve monetary costs, and employers will always attempt to minimize any expenditure which makes inroads on their

profits. As the New Democratic Party task force summed it up:

"Too much power in health and safety matters continues to lie in the hands of those whose actions resulted in introduction of this legislation in 1976. The clear consensus among those who presented evidence at our hearings was that only where management wanted a safe working place would it occur."

There are many other references in the course of the comments that have been made with respect to what can or should be done. Let me express it as the task force of the New Democratic Party expressed it:

"Internal responsibility must be redefined to ensure the right of every worker in Ontario to a healthy and safe work place. This right includes the worker's right to participate, the right to inspect, the right to shut down any operation that is unsafe, the right to full wage and benefit protection as a result of any medical monitoring program or during any work loss or shutdown due to health and safety problems, the right to know, the right to refuse and the right to strict enforcement of the act by the Ministry of Labour. These rights must be entrenched in the Occupational Health and Safety Act."

5:40 p.m.

My colleagues on that task force made some significant recommendations. I am not going to recite them. A copy of that report is available to any member of the assembly who wishes to look at it. I simply want to point out the inherent contradiction of the decision of the Ontario Labour Relations Board and the clear indication that it is unlikely a matter such as this will ever again get before the assembly.

In a committee of this House, where the annual report of the Ministry of Labour was referred under the rules, consideration of the failures of the inspection and enforcement branch of the Ministry of Labour in matters related to occupational health and safety was blocked by the vote of both the Conservative and Liberal members on that committee.

There will not be, for some considerable time, any forum available in this assembly for consideration of the fundamental problems that were unearthed in the hearings before the Ontario Labour Relations Board related not only to Westinghouse but also to any number of other plants, as was indicated during the course of the New Democratic Party hearings.

There is very little doubt, if one reads that report, that the enforcement provisions as related just recently in the report of the Royal Commis-

sion on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos in Ontario and all the paraphernalia of the Ministry of Labour with respect to the protection of workers' rights, appear to be designed to inhibit the protection of those rights in the interest of something similar to getting along well together. That is where the fundamental problem is, and we in this assembly are going to have to deal with that question very soon and very clearly.

So far, our attempt in this House has meant that the sub judice rule was called on us in the committee considering the referral, even though the members of the Conservative Party sitting in that committee did not know what the case was that was being called in aid of the sub judice rule. The members of the Conservative Party who sat in that committee that night did not understand, were not interested and could not have cared less what had happened. They were prepared to say that as long as a lawsuit is outstanding in the courts, the problems with respect to the protection, safety and occupational health in the work place of the workers of this province are no longer going to be considered by the assembly.

It will be a long time before this party accepts that provision. Those members who give any substance or concern to the workings of this assembly might, at their leisure, read pages 76, 77 and 78 of the report on Witnesses Before Legislative Committees by the Ontario Law Reform Commission. The report was made on a referral by the Attorney General, at the request of the standing committee on procedural affairs of this assembly, but we have never got around to debating it.

That report states very clearly that under no circumstances could the debate of matters of public concern and the right of the assembly to debate those matters be overridden because of a lawsuit that might be kicking around in the courts for any period of time. The report says that, but in direct defiance of it we had the sorry sight of the Liberal and Conservative members on that committee that evening simply saying no.

The matter of whether the Ministry of Labour is enforcing and inspecting in the way this assembly expected it to enforce and inspect for the purpose of procuring safety in the work place for working people in the province did not matter. The message was that clear, and in a funny way it is reflected in the fundamental philosophy of the budget of the province for this year. It just does not matter. If one is a cog in the machine and gets kicked out, they will provide some safety nets. The nets may have a few holes

in them, but that is all one is entitled to. That is all one is entitled to and that is all one is going to get from this assembly.

They will make a few gestures here and there so the conscience of people in the province will not be unduly upset. They will do it by saying to the province, and they will get away with it, that if the Conservative government has its way, when this parliament is over, they will go back to the hustings to regain their seats on the proposition that nothing could be done by this government for 450,000 people, young and old, who are out of work in the province, let alone all the other failures of this government in matters related to concern and care for individual people in a society that is one of the wealthiest on the continent and one of the wealthiest on the globe.

The government of Ontario, which calls in aid all the other factors, never stands up and faces the fact that a province as wealthy, as strong, as powerful and as influential in Canada as Ontario has little if any concern for Canadian economic independence, for Canadian cultural independence and for the working people of the province and is prepared to drift along without any leadership.

I say to the Premier (Mr. Davis), it will be a good time. We will adjourn the House any time he wants so he can go to his home at Georgian Bay and take all the time he needs to rethink his position. Whether he chooses to leave or to stay, we in this party cannot stand any longer the vacuum of leadership that is evident every single moment this parliament continues to sit.

I am angry. The world will not agree with me. I want the House to know that there are fundamental matters on the agenda that have to do with the wellbeing of this country which are not being considered and which will not be considered because nobody is interested in them. They are interested in something called deficits. That is what they are interested in.

The interest rate today on government and corporate bonds in Canada is 13.35 per cent. Do they think they are going to get much risk money to develop the kind of new world we are talking about when the guys who have the money can put it into government and corporate bonds at 13.35 per cent on short term because they do not know what is going to happen to interest rates tomorrow, and when we read that National Trust has eliminated the fixed interest mortgage for five years and is now providing mortgages on house properties at only a variable interest rate?

We never debate those problems in this assembly. We never get the opportunity to debate

them. Some time, somewhere, somehow, there may be a change in the government of the province and perhaps a different outlook could be taken toward the needs of the province, its place in the country and where the country is going.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in this debate with my colleagues and offer my comments on this year's budget. In my opinion, the budget demonstrates this government's commitment to the people of Ontario to provide strong leadership, responsible management and effective programs.

Mr. Laughren: The lucky 85 per cent.

Mr. Harris: We listened to your garbage.

Mr. McLean: This is good stuff. We have addressed the most pressing problems before us and have proposed long-term programs and policies to alleviate their effects.

Mr. Laughren: Name one.

Mr. McLean: If the honourable member will just listen, I will name lots of them.

In essence, we have rejected so-called stopgap measures for innovative ones that will benefit our citizens for years to come.

Mr. Laughren: Nonsense.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Simcoe East has the floor.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. McLean: It has often been said that politicians can be very near-sighted, unwilling to look beyond immediate needs and problems. In the same view, this category of politician is the first to call for short-term solutions to long-term problems. He never lays foundations upon which to build, nor does he plan strategies to address changes until it is too late.

Fortunately, we live in a jurisdiction where the government plans for the future. The budget, as presented Tuesday last, has shown that this government wants to look ahead and be prepared for changes now seen on the horizon.

Additionally, the budget demonstrates this government's belief that it is now time for the people of Ontario to undertake initiatives that will help them meet the challenges of tomorrow. The programs and initiatives introduced in the budget will lay the foundation for the fundamental changes in our current economic and social structure.

Mr. Laughren: Name one. Tell us which one you are talking about.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: He is talking nonsense.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) is not conducting this debate. The member for Simcoe East is entitled to make his opinions known in this debate, and you are thoroughly required to avoid the interjections and let the member proceed with the debate.

Mr. Laughren: Is parliamentary nonsense in order?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the member for Simcoe East try to ignore the interjections. We are not going to have any more or else we will have to address them.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We fear the unknown and the untried. We wonder whether we will be able to adapt or be left behind. But such fears are usually born of ignorance and the want of preparation. This budget assists and encourages our citizens to become informed and prepared for the pending changes ahead of us.

It is very enlightening for me to listen to the comments made about this year's budget by the official opposition and the third party. We have heard the terms "smoke and mirrors," "fraud," "illusion" and "con game" used to describe the budget. Opposition members have complained that there is no substance and no money.

I can somewhat understand the third party's misgivings, because the main focus of the budget is on strengthening free enterprise. That is the system we have in Ontario. It is a well-known fact that the third party has ideological difficulties with free enterprise systems. The official opposition, however, is known to have a more sympathetic bent towards free enterprise, yet it is unhappy with the government's proposed initiatives. I can only suggest the majority of its members must belong to that category of politicians that I referred to earlier.

This year's budget will set Ontario on a path towards the future. It points the way and offers assistance to those who wish to come along. It offers help to those less able to follow—the young, the old, the sick and the poor. It offers help to our businesses and communities which will lead the way in the coming transformation.

The future for Ontario is bright. We are not alone in this opinion. The Conference Board of Canada has echoed the Treasurer's (Mr. Grossman) projections for our province. Studies undertaken by the board have indicated that Ontario's projected output in 1984 will outpace that of all other provinces in Canada. This projected increase of 4.8 per cent in real domestic product growth gives added support and verification to the Treasurer's own forecast of 4.7 per

cent. This will place Ontario ahead of the other nine provinces for the first time since the board began monitoring such figures.

Mr. Laughren: Tell us about unemployment.

Mr. McLean: Quoting from the board's report: "The motor vehicle manufacturing sector is the source of Ontario's exceptional strength in 1984. Output of this sector alone is forecast to rise by more than 20 per cent, directly providing more than one quarter of the province's overall growth for the year." This is certainly good news for the automotive sector. It indicates a full recovery from the recent recession is under way.

Mr. Laughren: Come to Sudbury and say that.

Mr. McLean: The board also estimates that Ontario's share of Canada's total production of goods and services will rise this year by at least 15 per cent from our current level of 40 per cent to more than 55 per cent. The budget outlines—

Mr. Laughren: The people in Sudbury will be greatly relieved.

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the member's debate, but I do have to caution the member for Nickel Belt. He has been constant in his interjections, and if it continues I will have to ask him to leave. Would all members join in showing the same kind of courtesy that was accorded other debaters before the current speaker.

Mr. McLean: It did not bother me, because I just considered where it was coming from.

The budget outlined a number of proposals which will assist our manufacturing and service industries in maintaining this level of production and will lay the groundwork for further improvements in the future.

It is important to understand the overriding philosophy that drives the budget formulation process before any discussion occurs regarding specific proposals. This government has long recognized that free enterprise is the fundamental driving force of Ontario's past, present and future and its economic progress.

The health and wellbeing of the private sector is vital to Ontario's economy. The economic recovery and transformation currently under way is being led by the private sector, because only private enterprise can undertake the investments and create the permanent jobs needed to ensure continued prosperity.

The role of government is not one of intervention; rather, it must develop policies and programs that will provide assistance and work to strengthen the private sector.

In this year's budget this philosophy is reflected in the initiatives designed to strengthen Ontario's small business sector and the proposals that will stimulate the innovation, diffusion and adoption of advanced technological and management methods.

Small business has traditionally formed the backbone of our economy. Today, in the changing dynamics of our economy, small firms have shown a unique ability to adapt quickly. They are recognized as being the main generators of new jobs and innovation. Between 1970 and 1980, three out of every four new jobs were created in the small business sector.

The main problems associated with the establishment of viable smaller firms have been locating sources of financing and the development of effective management and marketing skills.

In this year's budget, the government has announced initiatives to increase the availability of financing for young firms and startups through proposed changes to the small business development corporations program. A total of \$25 million has been allocated during the 1984-85 fiscal year for this program, and the plan to divide the funding allocated to the SBDC program into three separate funds will contribute significantly to the diversification of our regional economies.

Without the small business development corporations program, many small businesses would not have been established. This was especially true during the recent recession when investments and new ventures were seen to be particularly risky. The traditional small business funding institutions, such as banks and trust companies, were turning away business they considered marginal. At the same time, however, there was an enormous amount of venture capital known to be available in Ontario.

Consequently, the government took an innovative, aggressive approach to attract investors by establishing the SBDC program. The program allows investors to pool their capital for equity investments in eligible small businesses. For providing this capital, the SBDC investors receive a 30 per cent grant or tax credit. To date, 432 active loans have been registered, resulting in the investment of \$182 million in 434 small business.

At a conference held recently by the Association of Canadian Venture Capital Companies, Ontario's SBDC program was called the best government program in Canada by a wide margin. The government's initiatives and programs helped our small businesses to emerge from the recession in far better shape than those in other jurisdictions.

In addition to broadening the perspective of the SBDCs, the budget has called for the extension of the corporate income tax exemption for new and young firms, the establishment of innovation and enterprise centres and increased assistance for technological diffusion. These proposed initiatives are all aimed at providing assistance for our small businesses. They will ensure their continued viability and provide the opportunity for additional growth in this vital sector.

The people in my riding of Simcoe East are fully aware of the coming economic transformation and the benefits that will result. I know they will be supportive of any measure designed to facilitate this transformation and hasten its arrival. They have learned this the hard way, from experience.

The Deputy Speaker: This would be an appropriate place for the member to interrupt his comments.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

ERRATUM

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No. 49

Hansard

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

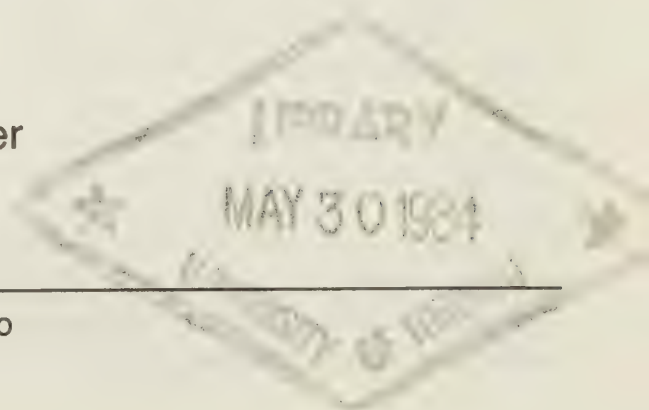
Tuesday, May 22, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 22, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, if I can continue my remarks in regard to the debate on the budget, there were several interjections this afternoon by certain members of the third party, and I wish they were here tonight to hear some of the remarks I will have to make later.

During the summer of 1982, RCA announced it had plans to close its television picture tube plant in Midland. The closure of this plant would have far-reaching effects within the area, as the plant provided 600 jobs, jobs the area could not afford to lose. Additionally, the closure of this plant would have meant the loss of the only plant in Canada capable of producing colour picture tubes.

However, the events that followed during the last half of 1982 and into 1983 demonstrated to me how much can be accomplished by industry, governments and private citizens when they join together and focus their efforts on a common goal, largely through the active roles played by the town of Midland, by me and by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Two companies were involved, Mitsubishi and Toshiba. They both became interested in acquiring the plant, but there was a problem. RCA had originally closed the plant because the domestic market for picture tubes was dwindling and it was becoming increasingly difficult to compete with foreign manufacturers. Obviously, there was no point in having any firm reopen the plant if it was just going to close again in a few years. Consequently, the government set up a few rules that the prospective buyer had to agree to follow in return for assistance. Only Mitsubishi was willing to abide by these rules.

The terms of the agreement worked out between the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Mitsubishi followed closely the objectives expressed in this year's budget. Mitsubishi's primary emphasis over the next few years will be on facilities and productivity and the improve-

ment of such; and not only that, but on innovation, expansion and the development of a viable export market. Current projections indicate that by 1988 Mitsubishi will have created 595 permanent jobs.

Mr. Haggerty: That is going to get you re-elected.

Mr. McLean: Absolutely. Not only that, but we do a lot of other things in Simcoe East that will help me to get re-elected.

That is already on the way now. There are 200 jobs at the present time, and by the end of May they will have expanded to a full line.

Hon. Mr. McCague: This year?

Mr. McLean: This year, in 1984.

The value of the exports this company is going to create will exceed \$210 million. Something this government has striven to do over a long period of time is to increase our export markets. This one success story has driven home to the people in my constituency the unlimited potential inherent in initiatives that bring our private sector into the forefront of the economic transformation.

The words of Peter Palicek, a senior consultant with SRI International of California, are well understood by the people of Midland. "Rapidly advancing technologies and their acceptance abroad make it essential that North American industry keep pace. It is a case of automate and integrate or evaporate."

At the time we were dealing with Mitsubishi, our Minister of Industry and Trade had a great bearing on bringing that company to the great town of Midland. The minister at that time was the present Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker). I am sure the present Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) is filling his footsteps very capably and will bring further things to the great riding of Simcoe East.

Not only that, tourism is of great concern and importance to my constituents. They are looking forward to the future and are fully aware of the potential of tourism. It has become the first industry in Ontario. It will have to go some to get ahead of the farming industry because, as I observed in the minister's budget, the 16.3 per cent that is being put into the Ministry of Agriculture and Food will help the farming

industry, and I am one who recognizes the value of that.

We have been fortunate in the last few years and have seen the development of many new facilities and services which will stimulate tourism in my riding. Quite a few of these initiatives were assisted by the province, most notably the Wye Heritage Marina, the Orillia waterfront development and the expansion of Arrow Wood Lodge. However, much still needs to be done to expand our range of services and tourism opportunities.

I am sure I speak for my constituents in expressing my pleasure at the new tourism agreement outlined in the budget and like my colleagues the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) and the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman), I am eagerly awaiting formal implementation of that program.

Mr. Harris: And Nipissing.

Mr. McLean: Nipissing is very interested in tourism. They have to go through Simcoe East before they get to Nipissing.

We are entering a period of transition. Ontario's economic health is recovering and the prospects for renewed vitality are good. However, we must not make the mistake of expecting too much, too soon. It will take time to recover completely from the scars left on our economy by the recent recession.

The budget has proposed a number of new initiatives to get our people back to work. However, it must be realized that the nature of our work force needs to change and such change is not accomplished overnight.

The opposition members would have the people of this province believe that Ontario's unemployment rate is astronomically high and that no one else has the problems we have experienced. In truth, Ontario has fared well in comparison with other jurisdictions.

The severe international recession of 1981 and 1982 caused increased unemployment throughout the industrialized world. Between 1979 and 1982, Germany's unemployment rate increased by 63 per cent, France's by 64 per cent, the United States' by 64 per cent and Canada's, as a whole, by 46 per cent. How did Ontario compare?

8:10 p.m.

If the opposition were to be believed, I am sure our rate must have quadrupled. However, records show that Ontario's unemployment rate increased by 50 per cent. When compared with the other provinces in Canada, Ontario has one of the lowest unemployment rates. In March of this

year, our seasonally adjusted rate stood at 9.4 per cent. Newfoundland's rate was 20.3 per cent, New Brunswick checked in at 14.7 per cent and Alberta's rate was 10.7 per cent, while the national rate was 11.4 per cent.

Another notable fact often overlooked by people is that the Ontario economy has outperformed the national economy in terms of job recovery. In the period from November 1982 until March 1984, Ontario recovered 202,000 jobs, or 92.2 per cent of the jobs lost during the recession. By comparison, the Canadian economy has recovered only 69.8 per cent of jobs lost in the recession. The Conference Board of Canada has projected that our unemployment rate this year will be a full percentage point below last year's level and that Ontario will be among the leaders across Canada in reducing unemployment.

Although this is all good news, a projected unemployment rate of 9.3 per cent is still not an acceptable level in the opinion of this government.

Mr. Haggerty: I agree with the member on that one.

Mr. McLean: That is right; we agree with it too. We want to make it better and we will. If the honourable member will listen to what we have to say, he will believe that we will do it because we know it can be accomplished. The Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) brought down an outstanding budget. It was one that many of us in this province could believe in.

I believe the records show that our programs and policies to date have been effective in keeping our rates well below the levels experienced in other jurisdictions. However, this year's budget has provided Ontario with a long-term strategy which, in my opinion, will put our people back to work on a permanent basis.

Some have advocated that the government should institute make-work programs for the young and those without marketable skills in an effort to reduce our unemployment rate. I think such schemes are worthless in the long term. They serve only to perpetuate the problems of the unemployed. At the end of these make-work programs, given their nature, the people are once again out of a job. They have not increased their marketable skills. The only positive aspect of short-term employment programs is the positive figure they add to the government's deficit. The proposals contained in this year's budget offer a sound and responsible approach to controlling unemployment.

Mr. Haggerty: How come it took the Tory government 40 years to realize that?

Mr. McLean: Experts agree that within 25 years 90 per cent of the work force will be employed in industries that do not exist today. It is imperative that our work force undertake retraining programs and that our young people are prepared for the jobs that will be required of them.

In addition to increasing job opportunities in the future, I believe the Treasurer has offered a document that upholds this government's commitment to reducing inflation and maintaining a climate favourable to economic growth.

Ontario's deficit this year will be 13.2 per cent lower than last year.

Mr. Haggerty: Is it around \$2 billion?

Mr. McLean: Yes, it is around \$2 million, but it is still 13.2 per cent lower. The member knows it went down from \$2.76 billion to \$2.3 billion and now we are going down to \$2 billion. Next year we will go down a little further.

When measuring inflation against the size of the gross provincial product, Ontario's 1984-85 deficit is actually smaller than the deficits carried in 1975 and 1978. Additionally, Ontario's deficit in per capita terms was the lowest of any Canadian jurisdiction last year. I am sure we will retain that position in the upcoming year. I want to repeat that for the opposition members who did not catch what I have just said. Our debt was the lowest of any Canadian jurisdiction last year and I am sure we will retain that position in the upcoming year. I do not hear a word from the opposition about that.

Our restraint programs have assisted in keeping our inflation rates down.

Mr. Wildman: They are keeping people out of work.

Mr. McLean: We are now experiencing the lowest rates in the last decade. The honourable member forgets what I said earlier in my speech: we increased our employment by 202,000 jobs last year. He does not listen very well.

We have witnessed the success of this government's fiscal policies. We have built a solid economic base upon which we can develop initiatives and effective programs to address the challenges before us.

This year's budget provides the people of Ontario with a plan that will guide them through the spirit of transition and will guarantee Ontario a place in the world economy for many years to come.

I want to follow this plan. I do not fear this economic transformation, because I have confidence this government will not allow Ontario to be left behind. It never has before and it will not in the future; even 10 or 20 years in the future, when we are still on the government side, it will not.

I hope all members will see the value inherent in the government's proposed initiatives and will join me in supporting the budget of the Treasurer for this year. He brought in a budget of which the people of Ontario whom I know and have heard from are proud.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege—

Mr. Stokes: What does the honourable member want to revert to now?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I do not want to revert to anything.

I want to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that we have provided for your benefit an audience that I know will enliven the debate. I am sure all members would want to know the executive of the Scarborough North Progressive Conservative Association is in the gallery tonight, and would welcome those people.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in this budget debate. It has been interesting to listen to those who have spoken before me this afternoon, and I am glad to know we have an audience here from the city. They will be glad to learn some of the things we are going to tell them about the mismanagement of items outside the city of Toronto. There is a great land outside Toronto; some have never heard of it, but it does exist, in the north, the east and the west. We have some things we would like to say about this budget.

I would first like to report on my riding of Kent-Elgin, where the manufacturing industry is doing reasonably well at the moment. Quite a large number of small plants over the last eight, 10 or 15 years have moved into the small towns and are benefiting from the resurgence of the auto trade. I talked to someone from one of these plants yesterday and he said they turned down the opportunity to work over the weekend.

8:20 p.m.

It brings up the point that it is too bad we could not find some sort of system to even out the cycles within the automotive business, where people are pushed beyond their ability to put in hours in the plants at times of the year or during certain years; yet at other times they are laid off for very long periods.

The people who are not sharing in that are those in the agricultural industry. Probably the most prominent and well-known are in the riding of Kent-Elgin. Another area that is not sharing so well is the tourism industry. Our riding is seldom thought of as a tourist area; yet all along the lakes, in the harbours and in the resort areas along the lakes, there is a very important tourist industry.

To my regret, when those people apply for assistance in the form of funds and grants from those various ministry programs, I do not think they receive their fair share. I think the reason is it is not recognized as an industry in our area. I bring this to the attention of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz).

There are a lot of people who fit well into the service industry. Not everyone can work on a farm or a production line. There are people, students and others, who enjoy the service industry and can benefit from it. I bring forward the fact that we do not feel we are being recognized as we should be in the tourist industry.

I must say I am pretty disappointed in the agricultural section of this budget. We were led to believe it was going to be the biggest increase in the agricultural budget that one had seen in recent years. So many farmers had the feeling that when the present Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) came in we were bringing in a new era, a new insight into the agricultural problems.

Here we had a man, fresh from the city, who would look at these programs with a different eye, one who perhaps thought of doing a real job for farmers as his means of achieving the premiership of this province. Today we are bitterly disappointed because we find this great, heralded increase of 16.3 per cent has to be examined in light of the facts of the budget.

First, the budget is still only one per cent of the provincial budget. This goes to a part of the industry which provides some 20 to 25 per cent of the total provincial gross product. It provides some 20 to 25 per cent of the jobs within Ontario.

We also find this increase is really a phoney increase. If we examine the various items mentioned in the budget, we see things such as the Ontario farm tax reduction program which will be enriched by \$18 million to bring us to \$90 million. I do not have the expertise at my fingertips to work out the figures. However, I think if we did an analysis of that, with the increase in assessment on farm land brought about by this government, together with the

province's share of the education tax, which has been reduced from a figure of about 60 per cent a few years ago to down around 48 per cent, we would find that \$18 million is completely swallowed up by those increases in taxes.

Another item is the \$62-million, five-year commitment to the Ontario red meat plan. This is a plan which has yet to go into effect. If present indications are of any consequence, it may never go into effect because the 10 provinces and the federal government have to agree to it. We are a long way from that coming into effect.

There is talk about the cost of credit and the fact that this government is going to do something towards alleviating the cost of credit. It is being very generous with the federal budget because two thirds of the cost of those agribonds come at the expense of taxes forgone by the federal government. Possibly one third would be forgone by the province, but we are a long way from agreement on that program.

The thing that angers me so much is that the government is constantly holding out carrots in front of farmers, saying just around the corner salvation is coming. That salvation, if and when it does come, is of some dubious nature.

The Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) mentioned that the Ontario government forgave \$140 million in retail sales tax exemptions. That is one of the phoniest items that could be put into a budget statement because there is no government in the western world that charges retail sales tax on food products, that is, raw food products from the farm. It is part of the cheap food policy of every government of the western world. It is absolutely misleading to indicate he is giving up \$140 million in taxes.

He said he is giving up \$12.2 million in fuel and gasoline tax refunds from farmers. Again, there is no government in the western world that charges retail sales tax on farm fuel because that is a part of the cheap food policy.

Farmers are not so easily fooled. One of the things that makes me particularly angry about that statement is having the minister think he can sell such a program to farmers because they are so stupid that they would believe these things, that they do not understand how the world works; when they do understand.

Another item he cited is \$500,000 for farm tank grants. That is to offset the coloured fuel program, which has resulted in millions more dollars in taxes being harvested by this government, not from farmers but from other aspects of the transportation industry. To offset that requirement, the government gave \$500,000 for

tank grants. There is a net zero at the end of that transaction.

The government has \$10 million in Board of Industrial Leadership and Development grants, which is part of the \$51.7 million spent on agriculture since 1981. If one goes back to 1967 when the grant system first began, in that year there was \$4.7 million in the capital grants program. This \$10 million hardly takes care of inflation during the years since 1967.

I have a particular gripe I want to bring to the members attention. Part of that \$10 million in BILD grants was a \$3-million grant to a processing factory in Essex county, specifically the H. J. Heinz Co.

That was put in to capture another couple thousand acres of tomatoes to replace paste we bring in from California and Spain. That was heralded as a great program. There were going to be a lot of farmers getting tomato contracts over that. One farmer this year has a contract for 450 acres. They gave 450 acres to one producer.

Mr. Stokes: Do you call that smoke and mirrors?

8:30 p.m.

Mr. McGuigan: I do not use that term. We have farm terms that cover it a whole lot better, but I would not use them because they are not parliamentary. It is the kind of language I am accustomed to and I have to hold myself back in those items.

Here is a government handing out public money for a good purpose. We agree it is for a good purpose, to replace some of the imports, but they hand out the money and then turn their backs on it. They say: "Use it the way you want to use it. Use it to your own advantage. Don't worry about the farmers out there. Let them grow peanuts or something of that sort."

Mr. Nixon: That is what the Tories call free enterprise.

Mr. McGuigan: That is the freedom to put the wood to you.

Mr. Nixon: It is going to be different after the next election.

Mr. McGuigan: That is for sure. We have \$1.22 million from the Ministry of Energy for agricultural and energy projects in the greenhouse incentive program. Here is a multimillion-dollar program struggling to stay alive today in a high-cost energy environment and the government gives it \$1.22 million. One can hardly find that in the budget.

The Ministry of Northern Affairs was given for northern agricultural products—

Mr. Nixon: They want the resignation of the minister.

Mr. McGuigan: Darned right. We have three million acres up there they keep resurrecting every election time, three million acres they are going to develop. For that purpose, the Ministry of Northern Affairs was given \$600,000. They are giving a nickel an acre to northern agriculture. That is almost as bad as when they bought Manhattan Island.

The budget says total government spending was more than \$450 million in the last fiscal year, that in total the government will have given over half a billion dollars to agriculture. If we bring in all the subsidies that accrue to each and every one of us, the list is endless. Every time someone mails a letter, I understand the actual cost of mailing a letter is something in the order of 55 cents to 60 cents, depending on the time one is speaking of. Yet the cost is only 32 cents. Each and every time members mail a letter, we are being subsidized.

The minister could well have brought in all those sorts of things. For instance, farmers get a reduced rate on their truck licences. He could have run that in. They were given that reduced rate for a very good reason, that is, they use their trucks seasonally and the total mileage during the year is very small. They did a research project a number of years ago and they came to that conclusion.

I want to speak about soil erosion. That is a theme I began in the throne speech and I want to continue it at this time. I want to read a little bit from an article in the Policy Options magazine all of us get. It is called The Conservation of Canada. It is written by Paul Aird, who is a professor of the faculty of forestry at the University of Toronto. He was educated at Macdonald College of McGill University and Cornell University. He has worked for the Canadian International Paper Co. and the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada.

He says: "The political journey to create and sustain Canada has blazed two intertwining trails. One went through the political debate to create and maintain a self-governed nation, including the provision and guarantee of human rights and freedoms. The other went through the politics of developing better ways to manage our renewable resources of soil, plants, animals, water and air to sustain the growing nation."

"We have succeeded in developing an economically advanced society, based on a democratic government and an industrial system of free enterprise, that provides high standards of

education, health and welfare services available to all." Of course, I know many people here might want to make qualifications to that statement, but I think in very broad terms we would agree with what has been said.

Then he says: "But these successes are marred by the toll of thousands of polluted lakes and rivers and millions of hectares of abused land. Will historians describe us as a nation at war or at peace with our environment—as a developing or a developed nation?"

Later he said: "Canada is gradually losing its margin of advantage in the abundance and quality of renewable resources. Our soil, plants, animals, water and air have not been properly represented by Parliament or the Senate.

"Conservation must have a higher priority. In fact, it should have the highest priority in the nation since how well we manage, use and share our biological heritage will determine Canada's future.

"A new focus for conservation needs more public understanding and public debate, with Parliament leading the debate." I have done so in the past and I intend to continue talking about that item in this Legislature. "We need to have much more parliamentary attention devoted to the development of better institutional arrangements within and among governments, industry, unions, schools, universities and the public to advance the wise management and use of Canada's biological resources."

Recently, the Senate of Canada did do something about this. The standing committee on agriculture, fisheries and forests held a public hearing in Guelph, and I have the transcript. I want to tell members some of the things that were said there.

Dr. Willem Van Vuuren, department of agricultural economics, University of Guelph, presented a brief. He reported on a land study done in southwestern Ontario. He found a very close relationship between land tenancy and soil degradation problems.

Currently, he said, one quarter of the land base is farmed under a lease; 30 years ago it was around 11 per cent. About 88 per cent of that rented land is rented by part owners—that is, people who own some land as their home base and rent other lands from other owners.

Their study was conducted among 354 part owners. Most of the leases were for one year; 77 per cent were verbal. If the renter improves the soil by growing, say, a hay crop, the benefit goes to the land owner. Conversely, the renter does

not feel the deferred costs of looking after the soil; the owner feels the deferred cost.

When they looked at the way the operators treated the land, taking into account the various basic differences in the land, they found the operators treated the owned land much better than they treated the rented lands. The effects are multiplied by the fact that the rented land was usually more prone to damage. For instance, the owned land was often flat land; the rented land was sloping.

Dr. Van Vuuren concluded that we need research to better establish the relationship between tenure and soil degradation, and we need legislation to establish the parameters for voluntary use of such legislation. He pointed out that there is a good deal of this in Europe.

Vern Spencer of the land branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food suggested that two to three per cent of the \$100 million now spent on tile drainage and municipal drainage would be a good starting figure for a research budget. Currently, the government is spending about \$500,000 on the entire field of soil degradation.

This 1969 report, *The Challenge of Abundance*, recommended that the province and the municipalities zone land according to land use plans so that the direction of the development of land use is clearly set out by law and made public. This never did come about. The present guidelines simply hold farm land until it can be taken over for other uses. It holds it in a nice unencumbered parcel so that it is a prize for the developer.

Anyone who has engaged in shooting wild-fowl will know there is not much sense in shooting at a goose, particularly an old one, on the ground or on the water because the pellets will bounce off those armoured quills on the back of the bird. To be a sportsman, you scare the bird up and then you take a shot at the soft underbelly, and that is the way to bring down a bird.

8:40 p.m.

This is what the developers do with agricultural land. They want the soft underbelly to develop, where it is cheap and easy to put in the foundations and tiles and all those things done below ground. They do not want to tackle the armour stone that they have in some areas simply because it costs more money to develop in those areas. All we really do today under the present zoning plan is save that land until the day the developers take it.

Rather than protecting farmers as was promised, the new Planning Act is now an instrument

used against them. The old guidelines and minimum distances gave a good deal of flexibility in protecting farm land against urban neighbours. If they were short a few points in one area, the protection could be maintained because they were long in another area. Under the new act, people tell me that if a person is short in one area he is lost. We need a better statement of provincial interest slotted into the new act to protect farmers, as was promised when it was passed.

The report made many other recommendations regarding education, regional development and marketing. Many have been carried out, some by the federal government and some by the provincial government.

As far as this government's education policy for young farmers is concerned, I think it is pretty good. The agricultural colleges are doing a very good job. I attended the graduation ceremonies at Ridgetown just last week.

However, the income problems of disadvantaged farmers remain. The caution that was given in the 1969 report is still valid; that is, across-the-board subsidies soon become capitalized in land values. We need programs targeted at specific groups of producers such as young farmers and farmers in certain sections of industry; for instance, the red meat industry.

In my comments on the throne speech, I started on the question of soil erosion. A great deal more information came to hand at the standing committee hearings on May 1. One of the highlights was testimony by Lawrence Taylor, the president of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. He said, "Many farmers today talk about soil degradation rather than erosion. In this, they are recognizing the effects of compaction." That is a point I mentioned in my remarks on the throne speech.

Galen Driver of the Ontario Institute of Pedology made a cogent point. He said soil does not start to move or erode until it is degraded; in other words, it has lost its native structure. Mr. Driver said that in 1982 a study they initiated indicated that soil erosion, lower yields and loss of pesticide were costing farmers \$44 per hectare per year.

The figure for all Ontario is \$68 million. This figure is really for the cost of fertilizer and pesticides that are carried away when soil is eroded. It does not place a value on the soil itself. That is simply the cost of replacing the chemicals that are carried away.

The county of Middlesex had the greatest losses on a hectare basis. The greatest loss in actual terms was in Brant county.

One can imagine what that \$68 million would represent in added income to farmers. It is five per cent of the value of the crops grown on those erosion-prone lands. They could have an extra five per cent in their gross income if it were not for those losses. I suggest most of that money would go right into the net income column.

Dr. Robert McLaughlin, the director of the plant industry branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, outlined the roles of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources. He pointed out that Agriculture and Food took a background role and there was little co-ordination among the players. I have mentioned this on other occasions and here we have the ministry admitting it. In my mind, that is an indictment of this ministry because it should have been the lead group in carrying this important program.

Why has this happened? In my opinion, it has happened because we have not had a strong farmer at the head of the ministry since Bill Stewart was minister. Bill Newman was a political end runner.

To his credit, the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) was not a political person when he was minister. I know he is very political in his own riding and takes care of his riding very well, but watching him as minister, I noted that he went out and acted as best he could to promote and guard the interests of farmers.

A lot of farmers feel that whether it is Bill Stewart, Gene Whelan or the present Minister of Agriculture and Food, that person should be fighting for farm programs and the farm and rural parts of this great province.

Even Liberal farmers look to the minister as their spokesman, just as I as a farmer look to that minister as my spokesman. When I am on the farm, I do not look at him as a political enemy or as a political person. I look upon him as my spokesman. He has not carried forward that role, and the farmers know it. That is why today they are calling for his resignation through their chief political farm organization.

The minister made the fatal mistake that has derailed his ambition for the moment; he underestimated farmers. When he blamed the federal government during his speeches, they applauded. I attended some of those speeches and heard them applaud. But when they went home and analysed what he said, they realized they had been led down the garden path. They stopped midway down that path, turned around,

looked at the minister and decided they were being sold out.

It is too bad. I hated to see this minister fail in his mission. I know each and every one of us on this side of the House who represents a farm constituency wanted to see the minister succeed, because we know the social values, the farm women and children and the rural communities that depend upon the success of that program. I take no particular pride in saying it has failed.

One of the reasons the ministry has failed is that it really has not had a handle on what has gone on within that ministry. If one were a researcher in the agricultural area and ambitious, as most people are—we do not knock people for being ambitious—one would realize that the way to success is to make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before.

The interests of soil erosion have been set aside by the people who say: "Do not worry about it. It is not really a problem. If it does become a problem, we can step in with a remedial process and fix it up. You can simply put on more fertilizer and chemicals. Do not worry about that program."

Despite that, the people who had a real interest in maintaining the viability of the agricultural soils and our towns in the rural areas soldiered on in the wilderness. Today we realize that those people had a real message. The problem was at the head office where those people who did have an interest in carrying forward these programs were sidetracked.

Dr. McLaughlin said at the Senate hearing that agriculture will take the lead in the future, a point I have been making for years, but they still have only 13 people—13 people for all of Ontario—to carry forward a program that involves billions and billions of dollars' worth of agricultural land.

Dr. McLaughlin described the soil conservation and environmental protection assistance program as involving \$25.5 million over five years. Last year it was only \$3.5 million. Two million dollars was used to clean up the old farm productivity incentive grants. The program has two parts: \$3.5 million for manure storage and \$2 million for erosion.

8:50 p.m.

Manure storage sounds great, it sounds like a great conservation move, but almost all of it is for liquid manure. Liquid manure systems are a great labour-saving method of handling livestock. Instead of shovelling and forking, one simply pumps the material.

I know people from farm areas, and perhaps even people from city areas, have seen some of

these big tank loads, which weigh anywhere from 10 to 15 tons, when they are pulled by 100- to 200-horsepower tractors over wet land, usually in the spring. If they are going to get the value of that manure and clear their storage, they have to put it down before the crop is planted. That means they go on to the land when it is really not fit to carry those great loads.

There are probably people here who, when driving through the country, have seen some of those giant machines in fields bogged right up to the chassis when they hit a wet spot in a field and sink down. The compaction under those wheels goes down four to five feet, way below the frost line. They rely, in a good many situations, for the frost to break up the soil compaction near the top layers, but the frost never reaches underneath the wheels of those machines.

It makes good sense to store manure in this manner but I submit at application time, we are promoting a system that has a lot of drawbacks.

I have just one last item I wanted to bring to Mr. Speaker's attention.

[Applause]

Mr. McGuigan: I know the honourable member has enjoyed listening, and I would like to thank him for his applause.

I want to refer to the testimony of Mr. Vernon Spencer, director of the capital improvements branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. There is really some good stuff here. This is what he said about the drainage program:

"Impact for specific study circumstances are reasonably understood, but the global impact has not been well documented. The overall impact is buffered by countervailing forces. Tile drainage should"—and I emphasize "should"—"increase infiltration and reduce direct runoff. As such, it should reduce peak flows and improve water quality. This should occur because of improved soil structure brought about by the growing of a broader range of crops, particularly deep-rooting legumes, which is possible because of better soil aeration, earlier drying and warming of the soils, longer seasons, etc. With improved structure and a well-drained soil, soil infiltration should increase. I might add that surface runoff should then decrease, and soil erosion as well."

This is the answer I get every time I bring this subject up in the estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, that the greatest and easiest way to prevent soil erosion is to drain it. But then he says:

"On the other hand, land drainage is usually accompanied by a change in cropping practices. If continuous row-cropping is practised, we

probably do not get and retain the improved soil structure that we desire. Similarly, with continuous cropping, the soil surface may be bare for long periods of the year. Thus, gains in infiltration may be limited to a relatively short period of the year, with high levels of runoff of poorer-quality water for a relatively long period. This partially explains why the ministry is now stressing crop rotation and the management of over-winter soil surface conditions."

What he is saying, in terms of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food over the last 20 years, is sheer heresy. He would have been strung up if he had said this two or three years ago, because people built their whole careers and their whole programs on the notion that the only way to prevent soil erosion was to drain land. Here is a knowledgeable man saying it may be doing exactly the opposite. He says:

"Finally, outlet drains will increase the speed at which water is removed and, unless specifically designed to limit outflow, will often increase peak flows. Also, during and following construction, there are normally detrimental effects on water quality. Ministry design and construction guidelines are directed at reducing these problems....Because of all the counterbalancing factors outlined above, it is difficult to indicate with any certainty the impact of the drainage program on our soils and water. This is an area that requires continued study."

Later on he says: "Perhaps just to summarize, Ontario agriculture spends somewhere between \$80 million and \$100 million each year on land drainage, right now. Yet the actual extent to which it is a cause or a cure of soil erosion and soil structure problems is not really very well documented. That is the situation."

I find that pretty damaging for a government that is supposed to manage our resources so well. They put their trust in one program over a very long period of time and just now are beginning to sense there is a problem.

There was a question by Senator Le Moynes. Spencer said: "Our concern is that we are spending a great deal of money as an industry, namely, \$100 million. On all soil conservation-related research, we are spending perhaps \$500,000 to \$1 million. I agree with Dr. McLaughlin that we will not see a great shift of money from the implementation of the drainage program into research. However, we do not really know whether the net result of, for example, tile draining a field is an improvement in its soil structure and a reduction in surface runoff and therefore an improvement of water

quality or whether in fact the exact reverse happens."

Can the members imagine what he is saying here? He is saying he does not know whether they are improving or the exact reverse. I think I know, because I have been bringing this to members' attention for some time.

The reason we do not know is that we do not have the studies and documentation done yet. Theoretically, we know that it should be an improvement. We also know that in actual fact one gets crop changes. But, as pointed out today, because of the market drive, the high-value crop can be grown continuously, and that is what will be done. If there is a sudden conversion of an area that has been in small grains or hay and pasture most of the time to an area that is almost continuously row-cropped, while one has used a practice that should be an improvement, the net result may actually be detrimental.

Also, we really do not have that documented other than for very specific cases. What we really need to do is try to get some understanding of what happens in an overall watershed or in a larger area rather than an individual plot. We know what happens in a plot but we do not know what happens in an overall watershed.

The members' attention should be directed to some of the testimony that was given at this Senate hearing. It points out that what we have here is simply a stand-pat budget. The minister has tried to flim-flam press releases and releases to radio stations, some of which they took up hook, line and sinker. Some of those stations have analysts and know the agricultural scene, and some of the editors of the farm magazines have seen through it and are ripping it to pieces.

9 p.m.

As a farmer and as a representative of a farm area, I can accept an honest statement from the minister saying: "This is all the money we have for agriculture. You will simply have to be satisfied with that share." I would accept that far better than I accept this snow job that has been put to us. It insults our integrity and intellect to suggest that we can be fooled so easily, that we are such ignorant people—I guess that would not be too strong a term—we can be conned that way.

In my farm business and in farm politics I have travelled the country roads a great many times to visit farmers in their kitchens and in their fields. These are people with analytical minds. They have to analyse the market. They have to analyse the weather. They have to analyse their programs. They can see through such a sham of a budget so easily. I feel rather sad that a

government would treat a portion of its resource industry in this way.

To repeat, I would not feel nearly as bad had it said: "That is your share. Take it and be satisfied." I understand that kind of talk. Most farmers understand that kind of talk. They get it every day in the market. They get it every day with their banker. They would appreciate the government talking the same way.

There is one area where I have to compliment the minister and that is on his report on rural women. I would like to predict that report is going to have far more impact on the politics of Ontario than anybody here may realize. It may not happen tomorrow but for the first time the concerns of rural women have been brought out into the open.

I guess rural women are so accustomed to working alongside their husbands, making sacrifices or going out on a job. I think 77 per cent of them work on a job of some sort to try to bring money home to keep that operation going. But they have had enough of it. They are sick of it.

If one looks around any farm community today one can find divorces that really have their roots in the raw deal the farm woman gets. To operate a modern farm, *The Challenge of Abundance* of 1969 advocates all the programs one could specialize in, where the farm would get bigger and when to capitalize, to substitute capital for labour. To do all of those things, the farmer had to buy the \$100,000 combine and the \$80,000 tractor. In order to drive that equipment night and day, he had to put in an air conditioner.

I do not think that is a great luxury. If one is going to spend the hours to run that equipment, he would be better to do that and get a return on that air-conditioning system. His wife is in the farm home looking at what she has to put up with. Many times it is a third- or fourth-generation home.

Mr. Stokes: She does not have air conditioning.

Mr. McGuigan: No, she does not have air conditioning. In many cases she does not have other appliances. She may have a refrigerator and some of the basic items. She may have an icebox too. But these farm women are under fantastic pressure. They are asked to work in the fields during the planting and harvest season because of the economics of it. The farmer cannot put out dollars to hire help. The farm wives do a lovely job. They can run that equipment just as well as men can. It is not the strong-arm job it used to be.

Men, on average, are 40 per cent stronger in muscle power, and there was a day when women

could not steer those iron monsters. The equipment today with hydraulic steering and modern things is relatively easy to drive as far as physical effort is concerned, as long as the person has some brains. The farm women do have brains. They know how to operate that equipment.

They are called upon to work off the farm to bring in extra money. They are called upon to be wives and mothers, and they are called upon to do the social things expected of farm wives in the community.

They do it without a great deal of complaining, but today they are damned well sick of it. I think one is going to find these people taking an active role in politics. I see this myself in the last couple of years when I go to Ontario Federation of Agriculture meetings. There are a fair number of farm women there.

I must admit it was quite a surprise to me during the 1981 election as I campaigned on the country roads, going down concession roads and turning into farms—in February 1981 because the election was on March 19—I seldom found anyone in the house. I would knock at the door and the house was empty. The only people I would find on occasion would be elderly ladies. I thought in many cases they should not have been left alone because they were 75 or 80 years old. They were alone in the home. I do not know whether they were babysitting, but I question it.

After three or four days and about a dozen attempts in various areas of my riding, I decided it was a great waste of time. I could spend a whole morning trying to find six or seven people at home. They were not there. I could tell the minute I drove into the farm yard. Most farmers have two vehicles. The pickup used in the business of getting farm supplies and doing farm business was gone, and that told me the owner of the farm was away working in a factory, he had a winter job or he was in town getting seed cleaned or picking up fertilizer and making business arrangements for the coming season. The family car was also gone, and that told me the farm wife was driving a school bus, teaching school, nursing, clerking in a store or whatever.

Mr. Riddell: Too bad there are not more women in this Legislature. They might bring more relevance to this place.

Mr. McGuigan: Whether or not they come to the Legislature, and I hope they do, I think these women are going to make their feelings known not only in the next election but also in subsequent elections.

One of the points on which there is now agreement between farm women and urban

women is in the matter of day care. One of the things brought out in this study was that the women who were doing all these jobs had no place to take their children for really good supervised day care. I am not knocking the arrangements they make. I am sure they make the best arrangements they can with neighbours or with people who operate private facilities, but they are not the facilities we want and we really need to take care of the children.

I have an example in my own family. As I mentioned before, I became a grandfather some eight months ago. He is a beautiful male child, not that we would care very much whether it is a boy or a girl, but farmers do look to have a male inheritor of the farm.

Mr. Riddell: He is destined to become the next Premier of this province.

Mr. McGuigan: He has brains on both sides of his family, from his mother and my son. I am not saying anything about myself. I will leave that to the member.

When my daughter-in-law looked around for day care—she has a very good job and is quite able to pay for day care; money was not the problem—she found there was really nothing. There was simply nowhere she could take the child for properly supervised day care, although she was quite able and willing to pay for it.

For the first time this was really brought to my attention, because this has been something that has not been talked about in the farm sector. I guess we have been so used to accepting it as the way of living on a farm, but a lot of women will no longer accept that. We are going to see them joining with their urban sisters in demanding day care.

9:10 p.m.

In Ontario, we have close to half a million people out of work and most of those are on social assistance of one description or another, federal or provincial. It would seem to be only a matter of eminent good sense if we could employ some of those people in that area.

I am not saying every one of those persons would be qualified to look after children in a day care situation, but in half a million people there must be some excellent people. If they were properly paid, if we had a proper program and if it was managed properly, we would take care of some of those problems. As has been pointed out by members of this government, this is a rich province with great resources and great people.

I have some hope that these women are now identified and will become a factor in Ontario politics. I do not believe for one minute that

because they come from a particular ethnic family or from a family with a Conservative, Liberal or New Democratic Party tradition, they are going to vote in a traditional way. They are going to vote for the programs they see will meet their needs. This is going to breathe new life into the politics of Ontario.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, it was interesting to follow the comments of the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) in his windup on women's issues in the rural areas. I guess he is aware the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) said daycare is not an issue in rural Ontario. I think what the member for Kent-Elgin has just said is that the member for Oxford is out of touch with rural life in Ontario.

It is with a degree of frustration and anger that I rise to speak to the budget this evening. I am not sure whether I can express my anger, frustration and disappointment in the same eloquent way as did the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) this afternoon.

In some respects, it is perhaps an appropriate day to be speaking on this budget, although it is none the less frustrating. It is appropriate because we saw a very interesting article in the business section of the *Toronto Star* this afternoon. I hark back to the comments of the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) earlier this afternoon and into this evening.

He started out his comments by talking about how this government plans and spends for the future. I find those comments particularly irrelevant in the context of this budget and of what many of us know to be happening in the real world, and naïve in the context of what we have seen over the last three years and what we can expect to see again in the very near future.

I come back to the article in the business section of the *Toronto Star* to which I made reference. "Majority of US Economists See Recession in 1985," says the headline.

"Rising interest rates, large federal budget deficits and a ballooning foreign trade imbalance could stall the US economic recovery as early as next year, a group of business economists predict."

These are 4,000 economists; I know we have said often if one asked 25 economists the same question, one would get 25 different answers. What we have evolving here among 4,000 economists is perhaps a bit of a clear consensus; a consensus, I might add, that falls very clearly into line with what we have been saying to this government for the past several years without much impact, unfortunately.

The article says: "The National Association of Business Economists said yesterday that a survey among its nearly 4,000 members found strong optimism about the economy in coming months but growing pessimism about how long the current recovery will last. A majority—69 per cent—now believe the recession will begin by the end of 1985 or sooner.

"The prime lending rate at US banks has risen three times in the past two months, to 12.5 per cent. The economists see the prime hitting 13 per cent by the end of the year, up substantially from their forecast of 11.9 per cent in February. Among economists who expect the current expansion to be shorter than average, 82 per cent gave high interest rates as the reason."

The member for Simcoe East in his comments was applauding this budget because of the economic stability it was supposedly going to provide for this province. Was there anything in this budget to deal with interest rates? We have all seen them start to climb again. The answer is quite simple; we do not have to debate it: No.

Was there anything in this budget to stimulate employment in this province, to create jobs for the 450,000 people in Ontario who are out of work? Was there anything in this budget to create the jobs that will provide the industrial stability, both with respect to the concept of full employment and reducing the social costs of unemployment and from the perspective of providing the markets that our industries now lack to get on with the recovery they really need to be stable once again? The answer to that question is very clearly no, there was nothing in the budget to deal with employment.

Was there anything in this budget to help this province and this country avoid the scenario that large numbers of the economists in the United States, 70 per cent, are now telling us is going to happen? We all know that, because of the policies of this administration and those of the government in Ottawa, whatever happens in the United States with respect to interest rates and ultimately with respect to recession will befall us as well, because the administration here and the administration in Ottawa continually tell us there is nothing we can do to avoid it.

If the budget that was presented a week ago today is to provide us with stability, or if this administration believes this budget is going to provide us with stability, then it is quite clear that this government is not listening to anyone, including its own members.

Out of one side of their mouths they are saying we cannot avoid what is happening and what is

going to happen in the United States, and out of the other side of their mouths they are saying we will have stability through the leadership of their budget, which provides us with nothing to avoid this scenario at all.

9:20 p.m.

Last week, with my colleagues the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) and the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), I spent a number of mornings talking to workers at plant gates in the city of Hamilton—at four plants, as a matter of fact. All are fairly major plants, fairly significant plants in the economy in Hamilton. Three of those four plants, the smallest of which I would class as a medium-size industry—not a small industry, a medium-size industry—and the largest of which I would classify as a very significant industry in Ontario, are on the brink of disaster and extinction.

There are a number of other industries in Hamilton that we did not happen to visit last week which are also major industries and fall into the same category. That is not to forget about the small industries and small businesses in Hamilton that are in the same situation, sitting on the very edge of disaster. They are the companies that managed to survive the last round of recession and high interest rates and have managed through cutbacks, layoffs, downsizing of their operations and a number of other techniques to keep slowly rolling along in this so-called recovery, but they are not in any sense of the word fully in the recovery mode or at a stage where they can even think of expansion or the long-term view.

As I suggested, they are still sitting on the brink. They still have thousands of workers on layoff. They still have no substantial prospective increases in their markets. Their workers are openly talking about those plants being closed totally within the next year to a year and a half if something does not happen to change the situation those companies are in, if something does not happen, on the one hand, to provide them with a marketplace for increased production or, on the other hand, substantial relief from the high cost of money they have to borrow to cover their losses, or some combination of the two.

There is nothing in this budget that deals with the situation any of those companies is confronted with. There is the lack of action on interest rates in this budget. Whether we are talking about overall interest rates or whether we are talking about specifically targeted programs to special sectors that happen to be in particular

trouble, it does not much matter because there is none of that in this budget.

Interest rates this year alone may very well be enough to sink half or three quarters of these companies over the course of the next two years. Their employees firmly believe it will happen. They have resigned themselves to that prospect and they see nothing coming from the government to stop it from happening. The managements of their companies are basically telling them the same thing.

Some of those companies are sending out layoff notices every two months, every 60 days. They do not always lay off the people they send out the notices to, but they send out the notices to cover themselves under the Employment Standards Act, because their business prospects at this point are so short term they know two months down the road they may have to lay off people. They manage in a patchwork way to grab another little contract to keep going.

I think that gives the members the sense of what many employers and many working people in this province are up against. This government has totally and completely ignored that reality in this budget. It has even been smart enough this year totally to avoid talking about that situation. Instead of going off as it has in the past with a number of inadequate programs that pretend to deal with those problems, but which obviously have not because the problems are still there, they have totally avoided even talking about those problems in this year's budget.

That situation has left communities such as Hamilton in rough shape and facing potential disaster. Hamilton is by no means the worst of the communities in this province. We have all heard discussions over the last few weeks, months and years, about communities that are in much worse shape in the short and long term than Hamilton.

I will not get into as much detail on many of the tax issues as I might have in past budget debates, since those responsibilities have been passed to others now. I am sure my colleagues will deal most adequately with the tax and economic questions that this budget does or does not reflect on.

I want to make some comments on the environment in this province. I will start by mentioning my very serious anger over the cuts in the budget of the Ministry of the Environment for the second year in a row. Last year we had budget cuts that totalled, depending on whom you talked to, \$32 million to \$38 million. This year we have another \$19-million cut from the

ministry's budget. My colleague the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston) referred to this matter this afternoon, but I feel it is important enough to repeat at least part of it. I will also deal with a couple of items he did not deal with.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt), for the first time in his ministry's history, is taking on a public issue in New York state concerning a dump site. I do not want to get into a debate now about whether or not his lawyers and representatives blew that case. That is for another time. I want to deal with the demands he claimed his people were making in the case.

It was a case concerning the S area dump site, a site that is leaking into the Niagara River. Both the opposition and, presumably, the government have been criticizing the way in which that chemical dump site is contaminating the Niagara River and, ultimately, Lake Ontario. We have criticized the way those chemical dump sites, not only the S area but Hyde Park, Love Canal, 102nd Street and all the others we have talked about over the last four or five years, are destroying the environment on which we depend.

In the S area case, the minister has now finally moved to the position we took four years ago, namely, that there is no such thing as a safe dump site. He admits there is no such thing, especially when that dump site is sitting on the edge of the Niagara River and has been proved to be leaking. The minister has finally risen to demanding that the dump site must be excavated and the contaminants removed and destroyed. It took a long time for the government to come to that position; finally, it has, but only when the dump site involved happens to be in somebody else's jurisdiction, such as in New York state.

Unfortunately, they have not seen fit to apply the same philosophy or understanding of the environmental problems on our side of the Great Lakes. There is a dump site in Hamilton just to the south of my riding. If and when the redistribution goes through, it will be in my riding—

Mr. Haggerty: You are going to get something out of it.

9:30 p.m.

Mr. Charlton: I have managed to inherit something out of the redistribution—the Upper Ottawa Street dump. There is a study of that site going on. It will now have been closed for four years this summer. It is supposedly capped to protect it from leaking.

There is a committee studying that site. They have found some 1,000 hazardous industrial

chemicals there but have identified only about 270 of them. They do not even know what the other 725 or so chemicals are. They do not have a clue.

That dump site is bigger than any one of the single chemical dump sites we are talking about on the New York state side of the Niagara River.

Mr. Haggerty: What has the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) done in the area of illegal dumping?

Mr. Charlton: The Solicitor General has probably been involved in some fashion. His officers on the highway have probably flagged through thousands of trucks that took contaminants to the Upper Ottawa Street landfill site.

The Upper Ottawa Street dump site is larger and potentially more dangerous than any one of the sites we are talking about on the American side of the Niagara River. It is a dump site that was used for 30 years. It is a dump site about which we had a great deal of difficulty getting information for many years. As a matter of fact, we had to get some of the information about the Upper Ottawa Street dump from congressional hearings in Washington. I am just thinking back again to the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan), who was referring to congressional hearings. We could not get that information here in Ontario.

The Minister of the Environment, who has just come into the House, will take a firm, strong position about dump sites in New York state, but have we heard a single peep about whether or not dump sites in Ontario can ever be safe? Have we heard a comment in this House about whether the Upper Ottawa Street dump or the Pauzé landfill site will have to be excavated and the contaminants therein destroyed? Not a peep because it is here; it is in our own jurisdiction.

The government and the minister know if that were to be ordered, the Treasury would have to pay the huge costs of that kind of cleanup, at least in part. We have one policy about dump sites in somebody else's jurisdiction and another policy about dangerous dump sites in our own jurisdiction.

Four or five years ago they were telling us there was no way the Upper Ottawa Street dump could leak.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It has not.

Mr. Charlton: It has. I have the report of the study committee upstairs. The contaminants from the Upper Ottawa Street dump have moved two thirds of the way from the landfill site to the edge of the escarpment. They are moving laterally and downwards through the bedrock.

Although at the release of the report last year, the study committee had not done hydrogeologic testing all around the perimeter of the site, it estimates that the contaminants are likely moving out in all directions from that landfill site. It is clearly established they have moved some 600 feet to the east towards the edge of the Niagara Escarpment and the Red Hill Creek, which will carry them down into Hamilton harbour and Lake Ontario.

Those are facts from the report. The minister should not try to deny them. He should take out the report and look at what it says. The facts are there. The site is leaking. Whether it is leaking slowly or quickly is not the point. The point is it is leaking. Whether we poison ourselves slowly or whether we take a dose to kill ourselves instantly is not very pertinent in the long-term debate about whether a landfill site filled with contaminants such as that one is can ever be safe. The minister knows as well as I do that it cannot.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Is the member comparing Upper Ottawa Street with New York state sites?

Mr. Charlton: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: That is totally irresponsible.

Mr. Charlton: It is not totally irresponsible. The volumes of waste that have gone into the Upper Ottawa Street dump far surpass anything in New York state as a single site. Perhaps if one takes all of the New York sites and adds them together, New York can outdo us.

Obviously, the minister has not taken the time to look very far into the Upper Ottawa Street situation. The reality is they have identified 1,000 chemicals in that site and they do not even know what 725 of them are. The minister is going to tell me the 725 they do not know about are harmless. Is that the minister's approach to the whole thing?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Naturally, the member is going to say they are all dangerous.

Mr. Charlton: I am saying the minister does not have the right to take the chance they are not. I do not play games with lives and with the environment. Until I know what those 725 chemicals are, I am going to assume they are dangerous because that is the approach I take to the environment and to people and their health. One does not play games when one does not know.

That brings me to the interesting announcement of a week and a half or two weeks ago that the minister is not going to put in place the gas collection system that the site study committee

recommended in Upper Ottawa Street. The minister says, "Toxic compounds do not appear to be escaping from the landfill into the atmosphere in concentrations large enough to constitute a hazard to persons living and working in the adjacent neighbourhood." The minister quotes from the site study committee's report.

Has the minister ever looked up the definition of the word "appear"? Did he take the quote out of that study and understand what it meant? It means that of the 1,000 chemicals in the site, it does not appear the 273 identified chemicals are escaping from that site in concentrations dangerous enough to provide any immediate harm.

The study goes on to say: "The amounts and the types of wastes buried in the landfill will never be fully known with any degree of certainty. The basic lack of information about the waste materials deposited in past years at the Upper Ottawa Street site presents a major stumbling block to designing specific studies to investigate the possible health effects of exposure to landfill contaminants." That is what the study says. That is really reassuring. That builds a lot of confidence out there in the community.

The study confirmed the existence of 1,000 chemical compounds in the dump site, but most of those compounds have not been identified. For many of those chemical compounds that have been identified, there is a lack of basic information concerning toxicity. For those who do not know, toxicity is the danger index of a particular chemical.

In addition, the study says, "Little is known about the effects of multiple exposure or toxicological interactions of the chemicals." That is another unknown. That is particularly reassuring to the people in the community as well.

What all this really means is that the statement, "Toxic compounds do not appear to be escaping from the landfill into the atmosphere in concentrations large enough to constitute a hazard to persons living and working in the adjacent neighbourhoods," is a very cautious and limited statement based on what they know so far.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The member just got through reading the part that said it is not a health hazard. Why does he not repeat that?

Mr. Charlton: Where does it say that? I do not see that anywhere.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The fact that emissions were not escaping into the atmosphere.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Charlton: No. It says "does not appear." Again, it does not say it is not a health hazard. It

does not appear, based on 273 chemicals out of 1,000 they have identified so far and have been able to measure. It means the immediate short-term effects of the identified chemicals for which toxicological information is available are probably negligible. It also means the long-term effects of those chemicals are unknown.

The short-term and long-term effects of the chemicals identified, for which there is no toxicological information available, are also unknown yet. Further, the short-term and long-term effects of those chemicals still unidentified are unknown. Most important, the short-term and long-term effects of identified and unidentified chemicals in combination are totally unknown.

For the minister's information, since he has chosen, along with his staff presumably, to interpret the site study committee as saying there are no health problems at the site, I want to quote from the research director of the site study committee when she found out what the minister's decision was. Anne Koven, who was the key person in developing that report, does not agree with the minister's interpretation. Last week or a week and a half ago, when she found out what his decision was, she said, "We had recommended the system as a means of taking fewer chances with the health of area residents."

The minister says "No collection system" because he wants to take chances with the health of the residents. The site study committee wanted the collection system so we could take fewer chances with the health of local residents. I find the minister's approach totally unacceptable. In many respects, it is the approach that is inherent right through this government. It is the approach that is reflected in this budget and in the government's inaction on the economy and on interest rates.

They take the same inaction on the environment unless it suits their purpose. The only time it seems to suit their purpose is when public opinion reaches a level at which they feel they have no choice. They go out and poll; they find out what the public thinks, and then they do what they have to do to satisfy that newly developed level of public opinion. Unfortunately, on environmental matters—

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: The honourable member implies that my ministry and this government take polls to determine virtually every step of future activity on the part of the ministries. I want to let the record show that during the time I have been minister of this portfolio, I have not taken

any poll of any kind on environmental issues. Let us put that on the record, and the member can go ahead with his rhetoric.

The Deputy Speaker: That is really not a point of personal privilege.

Mr. Charlton: The Minister of the Environment may have taken no polls himself, but we know what the government does. I am not suggesting the minister personally commissioned a poll on anything. He has not been there long enough to figure out what he should commission a poll on. I just repeat for the record what the site study committee on Upper Ottawa Street said: "We had recommended the system as a means of taking fewer chances with the health of area residents." The Minister of the Environment says no. Let that speak for his ministry's record.

The minister is a proponent—at least I assume since it was in the throne speech he supports it; as a matter of fact, in his response here in the House to us he seemed to support it—of the process of mediation as an addition to a very public approach we created in this province a little better than a decade ago; that is, the environmental assessment process.

The minister, the ministry and apparently the government as a whole want to establish this mediation process as a new additional part of the environmental assessment process so that perhaps we can avoid lengthy hearings and the antagonism and confrontation that inevitably seem to result from the environmental assessment process.

The minister says the mediation process is not intended to replace the hearing process but is only perhaps to shorten it. I think what the government is doing is indicative of its approach to public participation in environmental protection in this province. As their rationale for moving ahead with this, they have touted some experimentation they have done and are doing in this province on the process of mediation.

I would like to read some paragraphs from a participation agreement in the matter of the mediation of the establishment and operation of a waste management system for the north Simcoe area. This is one of the mediations the minister touted to us in response to questions we raised with him some month or six weeks ago as one of the experimental mediations that was ongoing.

I asked the minister why, if he felt it was in addition to a public process, they were demanding absolute secrecy in this mediation process. He said: "As far as I know, we are not. I do not know anything about that, but I will look into it

and get back to you." He may have looked into it, but he certainly has not got back to us.

We took the time to get a copy of this participation agreement on our own. I will read a few brief words from it. "Item 2: All communications made to or through the mediator shall be confidential, privileged and without prejudice to the position of a participant in any future proceedings."

We have taken a process that is public, a process in which the public is intended to have full input and full access to information, and we are now going to make the first stage of that process totally private and behind closed doors.

Even worse than making it a private process: "While it shall be open to any participant to withdraw from mediation at any time"—i.e., a public group, a particular industry, anybody who happens to be involved in an environmental mediation—"it shall remain the sole prerogative of the mediator to declare either a complete or partial impasse and to terminate the mediation. Any party withdrawing from the mediation undertakes to respect the confidentiality of the mediation until such time as it may be concluded."

There is the case of the Concerned Citizens of Stouffville, which withdrew from an experimental mediation some year and a half ago. When there is a public group of 500 or 1,000 members—I do not know how many members the Stouffville group has—the members have representatives. There are two, three or five members doing the representation in the mediation process. They get the shaft in the process and they withdraw because they know they are getting the shaft.

Under the approach the government takes in this document, the government makes those representatives sign to become participants in the mediation, but they do not even have the right to go back to their members and report why they have withdrawn. They do not have the right to report to the public they represent what it was the government or the proponent of a particular project was doing to them in that mediation process. They do not have the right to report on how they were getting the shaft or why they withdrew from that mediation.

9:50 p.m.

Is that an appropriate addition to a public process where the public is supposed to have full access to all the information concerning the proposal or whatever the environmental case happens to be? Is that an acceptable addition to a

public process? Of course it is not. What is more, the public will not accept it.

There is no other conclusion that reasonable people in this province will accept, especially those reasonable people who have been through the two mediations I am aware of, those who participated in the Stouffville one and those participating in this one. No reasonable people will accept that as either a replacement for or an addition to an open and public process. The minister runs the risk of further losing the confidence of the people of Ontario on environmental matters by the route he has chosen to take.

I have one other issue I want to deal with tonight. It will mean getting away from the environment for a few minutes.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Good.

Mr. Charlton: Perhaps I have forgotten one other environmental matter I did want to mention. It has to do with the question we asked the minister this afternoon about the trip to Illinois and the kinds of things going on there.

I see the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) smiling because he had the honour and pleasure of being with us last week on a most informative trip. I think he will concur that some of the things that happened on the last afternoon of the trip were very unfortunate and, to some extent, twisted somewhat out of shape. I think he will agree on that point. We do not have any quarrel about that. What I quarrel with is the very naïve approach the minister is taking to that issue.

When we questioned him this afternoon, the minister on the one hand took the position that there is no problem with Ontario Hydro, when he knows full well there is. He finally conceded the Americans are now using our record with Ontario Hydro against us in the battle to cut back acid emissions in the United States. He finally admitted that, although a month and a half ago he would not admit it; yet he is still sitting over there saying we are not losing that battle in terms of getting some legislated reduction in emissions in the United States.

The member for Oxford sat with me through that session on Friday afternoon. Unfortunately, the minister was not there, but presumably his staff has reported to him. We had a very hard and frank discussion with a couple of gentlemen from Capitol Hill in Washington where the final decisions will be made.

It is very clear that there is going to be no legislation this year committed to reducing acid rain emissions in any way, shape or form. If the member for Oxford will recall their comments, they see virtually no chance for any legislation in

the foreseeable future. Is that a fairly close quote in terms of what we were told last Friday afternoon?

How can the minister sit there with his head in the sand and say, "We are not losing that battle," when we hear those kinds of comments from those we know are going to be part of making that decision? How can the minister sit there with his head in the sand and deny those things are going on?

I understand the minister wants to continue the fight. We all do; we all know we have to. We have to continue the fight to clean up here at home, but we also have to continue the fight to convince our neighbours to the south to reduce emissions. Why is it we cannot face up to the political reality that we are losing that battle because we are making some serious mistakes at home?

The minister will stand up in the House and say: "Ontario Hydro is going to reduce its emissions. It will meet the 1986 targets; it will meet the 1990 targets." I have no doubt that is the honest and sincere intention. I will not be so bad-mouthing as to impute motives different from that, but let us be realistic.

If the approach we are taking to clean up Ontario Hydro is to phase out the coal-fired plants as opposed to cleaning them up, where will we be if we have another series of major nuclear breakdowns in 1988 and we have to fire up those coal-fired plants again? We will be right back where we are now and we will have accomplished nothing. The Americans will be using the same arguments against us they were using last Friday, last month and in the months to come.

If everything goes perfectly with our nuclear expansion program, if there are no more major and unexpected problems with our nuclear plants and if Darlington comes on stream when it is supposed to, Ontario Hydro will likely meet its reduction commitments. But if there are any unexpected problems along the way, it will miss the mark.

The minister will have failed to keep his commitment, through no fault of his perhaps, but he will have failed to keep the commitment because we will then have to rev up those coal-fired plants again and our acid emissions will go on the rise again because he has done nothing to clean up those plants. It does not matter whether we keep those coal-fired plants mothballed for potential backup or whether we make the decision to use them full-time; they need to be cleaned up.

What happened this year should be the lesson that tells us that. What happened last summer at Pickering was totally unexpected. What will be the next unexpected thing to happen? Will it be another problem we have not heard about as yet or perhaps even financial problems which will not allow us to finish Darlington on time? What will be the next problem that causes us to have to use the coal-fired plants we do not now intend to use?

If we want to honestly make the Americans believe we are committed to cleanup, we cannot allow that kind of thing to happen. We have to take whatever initiatives are necessary to ensure it does not happen. That likely means going back to a commitment that was made, perhaps not directly by the Premier (Mr. Davis) but certainly directly in a throne speech of this government just a few short years ago, to install some scrubbers at least on those plants that most likely will have to be used for backup in the future.

With that, I will move on to the last comment I wanted to make on the announced program in the budget, that the Ministry of Revenue is supposed to provide assessment exemptions for seniors and the handicapped for renovations or alterations that they or their sons or daughters do to their homes so those handicapped people can stay and live at home as opposed to going into an institution, and as well the increase—the second announcement this afternoon—in the allowable amount for renovations without any increase in assessment.

10 p.m.

The minister is aware that the allowable amount since 1971—some 13 years ago—has been \$2,500. In his great generosity, and I presume with the permission of the Treasurer, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory) has increased that allowable renovation amount from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Does he have any kind of concept as to what changes have occurred in real estate values in this province, even on average? We could take some of the exaggerated cases such as in Metro Toronto and really make it look bad, but let us just talk about some general averages.

On average, since 1970 real estate values in this province have gone up 300 per cent. The Ministry of Revenue, after waiting 13 years to make any change at all, has offered us one third of what it would take to catch up, just to bring us back to par with what we had when the government took over assessment in this province. That is the extent of the generosity in this

new program. It sounds great: let us double it. But everything else has gone up triple.

Concerning the program for seniors and the handicapped, Mr. Speaker, how many people do you know in your riding who have built ramps not only into their houses but perhaps out into the backyards, ramps from one floor to another inside their houses, perhaps even some elevators or additions on the backs of the houses to accommodate a particular handicap, or a number of other special facilities that are put in for seniors? I know of dozens in my riding.

I can tell who does not know, though: the assessment office. They have assessed them. When they did their reassessments, they assessed those additions, those alterations, those improvements; but they do not keep records of what alterations are put in for a handicapped person and what alterations are put in for the pleasure of the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande). They go out to assess an addition, they assess a value to that addition and they add an assessment based on that valuation; but they do not keep track of which were done for seniors, which were done for the handicapped and which were done just by an average citizen.

What we have here is a program that will deal from this point on with seniors and the handicapped. I suppose it will probably even apply to those seniors and handicapped who happen to hear about this program through the newspaper, by word of mouth or whatever, who understand it, who get in touch with the assessment office and who have an assessor come out to look at those things they have already had assessed and that now should be exempt. We have created a program here that nobody, in effect, has any way of reasonably implementing for all those people in this province who have already done the work and received no credit for it in the past.

We have seen the record of this government. We have an Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance program in this province. I cannot recall the exact figures, but we had some figures just a few years ago about the number of people in this province who were eligible on the basis of their income for premium assistance but who were not getting it because they did not know it existed.

That is the kind of program this one is going to be as well, the kind of program that hundreds of thousands of people in this province who will be eligible for some kind of property tax exemption will never get because this government has to take the approach of back-door assistance. On the one hand they can take credit for being good

to seniors and the handicapped, but on the other hand they will never have to spend all the money the program really might require them to spend if it were an upfront program such as a tax credit.

This government could very easily have extended the seniors' property tax credit and made some minor changes to the general Ontario tax credit, which everybody fills out on the pink form in his income tax every year, so that people could take advantage of an exemption for additional taxes they paid on renovations and alterations done for a senior parent or for a handicapped member of the family.

At least that way everybody who is eligible in this province would have a reasonable chance of getting access to that eligibility, but the way we have approached this program likely ensures that somewhere between a third and a half of the people who are eligible for this kind of program will never get access to it because they will never hear about it.

That reflects the approach this government takes, the approach we have criticized this government for over the years, yet it continues to implement the kinds of programs it knows everybody will not have easy and fair access to. In large part, it reflects the attitudes that exist across there, the same attitudes that exist in the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Labour.

The Ministry of Labour, and we have talked about it in this House, repeatedly talks about its voluntary approach to everything under the sun, women's issues or whatever it happens to be. We know those programs do not work and do not accomplish the goals this government says it intends them to accomplish. That reflects the whole approach of this government and I find that very unfortunate.

As I suggested at the outset of my comments, it raises in me a great deal of anger and frustration. Those are the things I find myself compelled to say to my constituents when they ask me why we are not getting a gas collection system at the Upper Ottawa Street dump, or why there are no job creation programs in the provincial budget to deal with a slightly above average unemployment rate in Hamilton compared to the rest of the province, or any number of other issues they come to me with.

This government leaves us no choice but to run through the things that go on here and the games this government plays with the very lives of the people of this province, against the clear advice

of the experts it hires to recommend solutions, which ultimately get ignored.

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) for leaving me a few moments to squeeze in a few remarks on this important subject.

I am inclined to believe that the member for Hamilton Mountain will not be supporting the budget of the government and I am really surprised. I thought he was a man of great wisdom, insight and intelligence. The fact that he spoke in such a strong and forceful way against the efforts of our government is quite a surprise and disappointment.

As one who sits back here with a lot of other members of this party, I think back to the days just over three years ago when we were talking about keeping the promise. I believe that what we see in this budget is the promise of the Davis government being fulfilled again, with a very responsible approach to the fiscal needs of our province, looking after the needs of everybody in a responsible way. As members of this caucus, we are proud of what has happened.

When one talks of politicians having to go to the polls every three, four or five years, that is when we re-establish ourselves with the electorate. What we are doing here on a regular, daily basis in this government is doing it on a very regular basis, a daily basis, a weekly basis. Just as the Treasurer has to go to the money markets and is constantly under the test for the way he is handling the financial obligations of our province, this government, our Premier (Mr. Davis) and our Treasurer are living up to the high expectations the people of this province have placed upon them.

10:10 p.m.

When one starts to see members from other parties looking earnestly and anxiously at this side of the House and coming across the floor, we begin to know, not just think, that promise is being understood.

Some people might be inclined to think the efforts of this Legislature are boring and uninteresting, that nothing is happening. When our Treasurer has been able to come out with a budget that does not increase taxes, that is able to touch on the needs of the people of the province at every level—the young, the old or whoever—we are seeing a government that is responding to important needs.

One of the big dangers in business today is the fear of bankruptcy. A business that spends too much, does not plan properly and does not handle its resources in a proper way can go bankrupt.

Governments can go bankrupt as well. Before they go economically bankrupt, I think they go politically bankrupt. That is when politicians fail to give leadership and guidance and are not able to use the strength of their positions to say no when everybody is saying, "Do this and this and this." What we are seeing in this government is the kind of leadership that makes us far from bankrupt in any way.

What our government is trying to do in giving this leadership is to see we do not even come close to the edge of being economically bankrupt. Some people make light of what it is to fight the deficit and to have responsible government. I think there are a lot of unsung heroes in Ontario who have not been given recognition and credit by all of us in this House for the way they have fought excesses in spending and have tried to put the lid on their own expenditures.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, \$600,000 in public opinion polls.

Mr. Bradley: And \$50 million in advertising.

Mr. Cousens: The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) should look at the way Management Board for the last 10 years has been clamping down and closing in. It has meant this province has not had to go to the kind of methods that are being brought in by the government of British Columbia. We are doing it on a gradual basis, on a consistent basis and in a deliberate way to keep government spending in Ontario under control.

That is an important part of what this budget is all about. It is not just something that happened one day when the Treasurer announced it. Behind the scenes, in an ongoing way, every ministry, every cabinet minister and every person within this government, going right down to the clerks and the people in the ministries—

Mr. Harris: And the back-benchers.

Mr. Cousens: —and the back-benchers, are all carrying an increased load. They are the unsung heroes. Not necessarily the back-benchers, but the people out there who are making the government offices work effectively with reduced numbers of people and reduced costs and under heavy times.

That is the difficult balance our government is trying to keep, the balance that says to the people who elected us: "We will keep the promise. We will provide the delivery of the services you need, but we will also be fiscally responsible. We will do that to the extent that we want to protect real take-home pay by limiting the growth of spending on public policy." This means we have

to live within our means. There is something criminal when people start thinking they have money to spend when they have not earned the money.

Mr. Bradley: Like on a new jet for the Premier.

Mr. Cousens: It was not for the Premier. If this government had gone ahead, I would have supported the jet for this province, for northern Ontario. Yes, I would have. The fact of the matter is that many people did not understand it.

There are many things this government can be doing for northern Ontario and members do not realize that. I live in southern Ontario and I realize we have many benefits here, but let us recognize the people in Kenora and Kapuskasing, North Bay and those cities who need to be recognized. We need to provide services for them as well.

We must live within our means. That is the point. We have to face up to the facts. We should not spend money that does not belong to us. We are spending the money of coming generations and of people who are not here to be accounted to. That is not fair. It is not right.

When we start having members, as we had the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), asking why do we not have a larger deficit at this point, promoting a higher deficit, I can tell them this: that from my riding and my constituency, I would rather promote responsibility in controlled spending, reduced spending and bringing down the deficit. I can defend that strongly and emphatically and I wish the member for Scarborough West could have done so as well.

Mr. Nixon: You sound just like John Turner.

Mr. Cousens: John Turner talks about reducing the deficit in the federal government by \$15 billion, but one wonders how he is going to do it. He is like the honourable member opposite, who would have radical surgery in different areas but does not tell us where or how he would do it if in fact he were ever to have the position of responsibility.

Mr. Bradley: Are you talking about Brian Mulroney?

Mr. Cousens: I was talking about the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) if he ever were to be the head of a government. It is easy to make promises when you are outside; it is far more difficult to make those difficult decisions from within.

Mr. Bradley: He soars with the eagle.

Mr. Cousens: Well, I would just like to stay with him right now because, quite simply, many governments, not just the government of Canada but governments in other parts of the world, also are running up debts that threaten not only to drown their countries in a sea of red ink but also to jeopardize the stability of the international financial system.

Mr. Grande: Metaphors are not your forte.

Mr. Cousens: Metaphors may be important in certain respects, and we will come to the honourable member's big metaphor shortly.

Mr. Allen: Let us get into some reasonable comparisons.

Mr. Cousens: The reasonable comparison is that it would seem to be popular on all the world markets for countries to spend more than they have, and I was impressed to see that our Treasurer made at least a significant effort in this budget to start reducing the deficit of this province.

You cannot continue to spend money you do not have. The federal government started it years ago. The federal deficit in 1979-80 was a mere \$11.48 billion; it has crept up to close to \$30 billion. That kind of spending has to stop. We have to live within our means.

In 1983, the net external debt for nonmembers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries stood at US\$413 billion. If you start looking at the extent of the world debt, there are countries all over this magic globe that are living beyond their means.

In 1983, for the first time, debt service payments for all developing countries exceeded net borrowing by \$21 billion, and the total external liabilities reached \$810 billion. In other words, that is how much in debt this world of ours was. That is not the communist countries, because they do not know how to keep track of things. They force it; they have the kind of thinking that comes from the third party.

In the period 1978-82, the portion of world debt that countries could not pay on time increased from US\$2.3 billion to US\$39.5 billion, an increase of 1,600 per cent. In 1983, the total national debt of Latin American and South American countries alone stood at US\$318 billion. Look at what Brazil has done. Maybe the members opposite would like to see us be like Brazil, Mexico or Argentina.

Brazil owes between \$89 billion and \$92 billion in foreign debt, Mexico about \$83 billion in external liabilities and Argentina between \$37 billion and \$40 billion. According to a survey conducted by Country Risk Update, of the 50

major borrowing nations in the world, only 22 nations are solid enough to be ranked as a moderate risk or better, and the situation in six of those 22 countries is expected to worsen over the next five years. In other words, we are seeing countries borrowing beyond their means; we will be seeing six of the 22 major countries that have borrowed get into trouble in the next five years.

It is not only governments of developing countries that carry large debts and run large deficits; look at what the United States is giving us as an example. The American deficit this year is estimated to be \$177.8 billion, and they project a deficit of \$179 billion for fiscal 1985. The American deficit was expected to peak at around \$180 billion. They are now seeing that the American deficit will remain in the \$200-billion range for the next several years; it could reach \$280 billion by 1989.

10:20 p.m.

Those guys over there get so comfortable living in debt that they do not know what it is like to live on the right side of it, in the black rather than in the red. Maybe that is why some of them are called reds.

The total American national debt now stands at \$1.3 trillion. The 1984 Canadian budget projects a deficit this fiscal year for our good country of \$29.6 billion or 6.9 per cent of our gross national product. According to a recent report of the International Monetary Fund, of the seven major industrial economies, Canada is running the highest deficit in relation to the size of its economy.

Interjections.

Mr. Cousens: Did members hear that during their interjections? Canada is running the highest deficit in relation to its economy among the seven large major industrial powers.

In 1983, about 10 million Canadians paid taxes to the federal government. The average payment was about \$2,800, of which federal debt charges consumed \$1,700 for each taxpayer. In other words, in 1983 nearly 61 per cent of the average Canadian's tax dollar went to service debt. This year the federal government will spend \$20.3 billion to cover public debt charges. By 1987-88, debt charges will increase to \$24.7 billion.

Living above one's income becomes a habit. It has become a habit for Canadians; it has become a habit for governments; but it is not going to become a habit for this government.

Look at Alberta, our good friends out west. To keep its deficit under control in fiscal 1984, to maintain its capital program, the government has

borrowed from the heritage savings trust fund for the third year in a row. They have cut expenditures by 1.7 per cent, the first such cut in 40 years. We started long before that to bring things under control. The Alberta government has eliminated 1,100 civil service positions, the first reduction in 43 years. Last fall they raised their personal income tax rate by 12.5 per cent.

In per capita terms, if Ontario's 1983-84 deficit had been as large as Alberta's or the federal deficit, it would have been \$3.25 billion or \$9.5 billion respectively. That is an awful lot of money the members opposite are inviting us to spend.

In 1984-85, the total national output will be nearly three times greater than Ontario's output. However, though the national economy is only three times the size of Ontario's, the national deficit is 14.5 times that of Ontario's.

Mr. Bradley: That is because they are bailing you out.

Mr. Cousens: I do not hear the Liberals making comments on that one. If they want us to be that much over our means, they are really begging for trouble.

In Ontario, debt service accounts for 11 per cent of total government expenditures. For the sake of the member for St. Catharines, 11 cents on every dollar spent by the government goes to pay off the debt. At the federal government level, public debt charges account for 20.8 per cent of total expenditures or 21 cents out of every dollar.

Measured in relation to the size of the provincial economy, Ontario's 1984-85 deficit is actually smaller than the 1975-76 deficit—1.3 per cent of the gross provincial product as compared with 2.8 per cent then. Were Ontario's 1984-85 deficit as large as its 1975-76 deficit, relative to the size of the economy, it would be \$4.46 billion.

What we are seeing here is a government that is making significant strides to reduce its spending. The Ontario government expenditures have remained relatively stable in relation to the size of the economy.

In 1984-85, provincial government expenditures equal 16.8 per cent of the gross provincial product. Federal expenditures equal 23.3 per cent of its gross national product. Ontario's deficit as a percentage of total spending has declined from 10.8 per cent in 1982-83 to 7.6 per cent this fiscal year. That is why I am a Tory, because what we are doing is being responsible.

At the federal level the trend has run the opposite way, with the deficit rising from 30.8 per cent to 31.9 per cent of the total spending in

the same period. In Ontario, we are seeing a significant effort by everybody to bring things under control. This includes the unsung heroes, the people who make up the Ontario civil service who have made efforts to make this happen.

The problem is that everybody has a "want" list. If a member were to delineate the total requirements he has in his riding, we know he could delineate costs for which the province could pay out more money. If a member were to go and figure out the costs he would like to see in his riding and if he were given \$3,000 for each person in his community, he could do much with it.

Mr. Laughren: Not in Markham, though. It has everything. The honourable member just has to look at the Markham news.

Mr. Cousens: I know.

Let me just respond to the honourable member. I have in my riding a very significant community known as Richmond Hill. Approximately 40,000 people live there. Richmond Hill has an immediate requirement for roads that \$80 million would begin to resolve. Over a time it has just not been able to maintain the payments on them. In the same community we have no sewers, and we require in the order of \$10 million to \$12 million to help resolve the problem. We put in water, but we did not put in the sewers to take the water away.

In one community we could spend \$110 million. We have a need for more hospital space, schools and day care. If we were to live in the ideal world that the member dreams of being in, then it would take double the taxes this province is now levying to meet the needs of that kind of community, because we are talking something in the order of \$3,000 for every man, woman and child in Ontario.

The people of this province cannot afford to pay more taxes. They want a government that is going to live within its means. They have one. They can afford us because they know we are doing the right thing. It is a lot harder to say no than it is to say yes. As members, we all approach the ministers and seek from them assistance for some of these major requirements. They end up having to say, "No, we cannot do it." The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) just cut \$40 million from his road budget. That is not easy or fun.

Mr. Nixon: I think that was done for him.

Mr. Cousens: I know it was. May I just suggest that we on this side see it as difficult but responsible. On one side we are saying, "Give us more," and yet we are not prepared to pay more.

The people of Ontario want a government that is going to have the balance that is required to say, "We know there are many requirements out there."

The Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) had requests for capital in excess of \$360 million, with something like \$40 million to dole out and share across Ontario. Where is that money going to come from? It has to come through being fiscally responsible and through the government being careful in spending what money it does get.

Members do not realize how difficult it is for a government to say no. I approach the Minister of Education and the Minister of Transportation and Communications and they say no. May I just suggest that I know the province would like to have more and more, and there are people in the third party who have said, "Increase the deficit."

We want to have responsible leadership such as has been given to us by our Treasurer and our

Premier. I give great tribute to those unsung heroes coming through Management Board and the ministries who are cutting back on the spending of this government.

This is the kind of government that will get re-elected. It is the kind of government that knows there are limits to its spending and that the government can only provide so much with its limited resources.

Politicians must establish priorities. What I see our government trying to do is establish those priorities. The budget that our minister has presented to us, which I am glad to support, is responsible for that reason and for many others.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the honourable member would adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Cousens, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, May 24, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 24, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: My point is with respect to press accounts concerning freedom of information legislation that apparently is to be introduced in the House today.

I know it has been customary for this government to release details of legislation and programs before it makes its intentions known to the members of the assembly here in this place; indeed, we are almost growing used to reading details in the press of what is expected. But I do find it offensive that this breach of basic parliamentary etiquette should become so enshrined that ministers of the crown have now taken to making these announcements at press conferences as opposed at least to the somewhat less than discreet leaks we have been used to.

This is especially ironic when on this occasion we are dealing with freedom of information legislation. This is something that has been before the House for many years. Indeed, for almost a decade the government has been struggling to come forward with proper and appropriate legislation, which we on this side of the House would welcome.

It seems to me that the privileges of the members are somewhat abused when important themes like this are dealt with on a press conference stage rather than by coming before the House appropriately and giving the Legislature the primacy in matters such as these.

Mr. Speaker: As you may remember, it is not a point of privilege. This matter has been dealt with on various occasions. It may be, as you say, a matter of etiquette, certainly a matter of courtesy, but it is not a breach of privilege, with all respect.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

PRIVACY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION BILL

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, later today I will be introducing the Privacy and Access to Information Act, 1984.

In essence, the bill provides for a general right of access, subject to specific exemptions and individual privacy protection rights.

The mandate and principal objective governing this legislation is to distinguish between the public's right to know and a government's obligation to its citizens, whether they be corporate or individual. I believe this bill has struck the difficult yet vital balance between the two and has addressed the issues in a comprehensive manner. The privacy and access bill marks a significant step towards establishing a mechanism which will achieve this objective.

The measure of success behind any legislation is, of course, its accessibility to the citizens it is meant to serve. Towards this end, the bill establishes an independent review process through the creation of a privacy and information commissioner. In most cases, at the request of an individual the commissioner will have the right to inspect government-held documents and make recommendations accordingly. It is equally important, therefore, that a refusal on the part of a minister to accept the commissioner's recommendations be scrutinized and monitored on a regular basis. On that point, the bill requires the privacy and information commissioner to file a quarterly report with the Legislative Assembly, showing instances when his recommendations have not been followed.

I have carefully studied the appeals method adopted in other jurisdictions—in particular in the United States—and I am convinced that the model I am asking this House to consider is a practical one and is consistent with our parliamentary process. Individually and collectively, we as a government are directly accountable for our decisions to the electorate.

As final decisions will rest with the minister and the Legislative Assembly, the bill reaffirms the principle of ministerial accountability, a principle which I believe is the foundation of our parliamentary system and a tradition that is worth strengthening. It is my belief that this mechanism will allow citizens a direct and inexpensive route towards giving access to government-held files.

In addition, the legislation proposes that the act be scrutinized by a select committee of the Legislature during the first three years. This

provision will allow members to examine objectively whether the principles of the bill have been implemented.

Another positive feature of the bill, and one which will strengthen the responsibility of governments to disclose information, is addressed in the following manner. Essentially, this feature establishes an obligation on the government to disclose information if the knowledge is a matter of public interest, for example, in situations where there is grave environmental, health or safety hazard. The types of information which will be released under the bill have been expanded. Public opinion polls, details on expenditures, policy advice and directives to staff are just a few examples.

Having said that, I would like now to turn my focus to part III, the privacy section of the bill.

2:10 p.m.

In recent years, the issues surrounding privacy have been greatly accelerated by rapidly changing and increasingly sophisticated technology systems. These changes have made all of us aware that our right to privacy can no longer be taken for granted. In this respect, the bill establishes a number of protections for government-held information. For example, the bill establishes regulations governing the collection, use and dissemination of personal information. It also protects individuals from third-party access.

As well, citizens in most cases will be given the opportunity to see their files and to have corrections made, if applicable. Through the privacy commissioner, a formal process will be put in place that will provide citizens with a mechanism to address any concerns they may have.

At present there is an index that details the type of personal information that is collected by our government. This document has been extremely effective in providing individuals with a guide to identifying the government's sources of personal information. When I reviewed the index, I was interested to note that the vast majority of the personal data banks are at present open to individual access.

Under the terms of this legislation, this effort will become part of an annual access publication. As such, the personal record-keeping practices of the government will be subject to ongoing and informed public scrutiny. This knowledge, combined with the privacy protection measures in the bill, will ensure the exercise of fair information practices by our government.

In addition, the formation of a data protection office is also proposed in the bill. The principal

thrust and mandate behind this initiative will be to provide internal guidelines to act as a privacy watchdog within government. Although the mandate of the bill is to initiate legislation governing the public sector, many government agencies will also be included.

We are embarking on a new road in Ontario today. This bill will no doubt require further refinement as it is indeed an evolutionary process. But it is the first step in what I hope will lead to a more open and responsible parliamentary system in our province.

ORAL QUESTIONS

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, this question is to the minister responsible for privacy. Will the minister not admit he has failed in his efforts to persuade his colleagues we need meaningful freedom of information legislation in this province; that the legislation he will introduce today merely enshrines the current practice of suppressing everything, of letting the cabinet ministers be the judge with no independent arbiter; that there is no material change, and that this is a sham?

Is he not embarrassed? Will he go back to his cabinet colleagues and try to persuade them to do something meaningful for this province?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I do not agree with the Leader of the Opposition that this is not meaningful legislation, nor do my cabinet colleagues view it as not meaningful legislation. There is an independent arbitrator; there is an independent review of information within the bill. I have indicated that in my opening statement. Therefore, the member is misleading the Ontario public about the process that is proposed here.

Mr. Wrye: Pardon me?

Ms. Copps: Better withdraw that.

Mr. Stokes: You are in trouble now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would like the honourable minister to withdraw that offensive word, please.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I will withdraw it and I will say that the statement is inaccurate and is contrary to what I have just stated.

Mr. Peterson: The minister was relying on pressure or on a report to try to shame his colleagues into sharing information with the taxpayers in this province. Would he not agree that his colleagues are in fact beyond shame? Would he not agree with me that there is hardly an editorial in any newspaper or any com-

mentator in this province who has not pointed out time after time the failure of his government to be forthcoming with information?

I refer the minister specifically to the Ottawa Citizen editorial of November 21, which said: "It is a sorry record of deceit and retreat, one that should cause members of cabinet to cringe with embarrassment." Yet they were not embarrassed.

Would the minister not agree that this is not going to change materially any report from any appointed commissioner? He recognized personally the arrogance of his own colleagues when he said on the radio this morning, "We have been in power so long that we could probably get away without introducing any legislation of this sort." Has he not discredited his own legislation already?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The fact is that until very recently there has been little interest by the public in this piece of legislation. I believe it is a credit to this government and my cabinet colleagues that they saw fit to go ahead with the legislation I have put forward. The Leader of the Opposition knows as well as I do that many jurisdictions in our country and within the British parliamentary system do not have any legislation. A lot of them have rejected it.

Mr. Peterson: Neither do we now.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: That is a matter of interpretation.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I believe my cabinet colleagues are to be congratulated for supporting me. Our government is to be congratulated not only for putting a form of access in law, but also for providing additional rights to privacy for the citizens of Ontario. I congratulate them on that.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the government has produced legislation without guaranteeing independent judicial review. I would like to ask the minister if he would like to comment on the remarks that were made by Walter Baker, who for many years championed the cause of freedom of information in the House of Commons. He had this to say a couple of years ago before his death: "Without independent judicial review, the cabinet ministers who have the information will be the judges. In fact, they would be judge, jury and policeman all rolled into one. To even suggest this as a possibility in the 1980s indicates a medieval attitude to the issue."

I wonder if the minister would comment on those remarks by Walter Baker, which indicate that there was at least one Conservative in

Ontario who clearly understood at that time the real meaning of freedom of information and the meaninglessness of the kind of remedies the minister has brought forward, with the exemptions and the lack of independent judicial review.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I guess I spent every Friday and Saturday night for about six years with my good friend and colleague Walter Baker during his time and his interest in this field. During that period we had many discussions about this aspect of the bill. I told him what I believed as to the legislation I would put forward in this province. I can tell the member one thing about Walter Baker. He respected my view and he understood it.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the first question under freedom of information will be where the New Democratic Party front row is.

While the minister is deciding whether to appoint Hugh Segal or Sally Barnes as the new commissioner for information to give an independent view, would the minister not agree that if there is to be a right to privacy, there also has to be a right to information?

This bill deals only with privacy and just maintains the status quo we now have with respect to the ability of a minister to refuse to provide information. That is the situation we now have which has kept the polls, the Suncor information and all the other things away from the Legislature. Would the minister not agree that this half-loaf he is offering us on this principle, which does not allow any redress by a complaint to the courts, is simply unacceptable?

Would the minister tell us why he is, in effect, placing an extra padlock on government secrets so that the minister is the final decision-maker and nothing will have changed in Ontario?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I understood the member for Kitchener, as one of the candidates for the job of privacy of information commissioner, had an interest in it. I had him on my list, but I guess I will cross him off.

Mr. Breithaupt: Do not be hasty.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The member for Kitchener says not to be hasty.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The access part of the bill does not maintain the status quo. As I have said, and I will say it again and again, there is an independent review of the data. The results of that independent review will be reported to this Legislative Assembly on a regular basis. The

minister who refuses to accept the recommendation of the information commissioner will be called to tune, and rightly so.

I believe the parliamentary process in our province has worked extremely well over the long period of history. I feel we should not abandon the present principles, which are so deeply ingrained in our parliamentary system. I come to that conclusion on a philosophical basis rather than on any other basis.

Mr. Rae: Do not try to give it some sort of philosophical integrity; it has none at all.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: In the final analysis, I believe the politician must make the final decision on these matters because eventually he has to answer for the release of that information. If there is damage associated with the release of the information, we as a government are responsible for that damage.

Mr. Peterson: That is absolute baloney. I am surprised the minister could stand up in this House and say that.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Since you are the expert on baloney—

Mr. Nixon: Did the minister take her Valium this morning?

Mr. Peterson: Could you settle her down a bit, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: She was starting to twitch and I thought she was going to blow up.

I have a question of the Minister of Labour with respect to the very disturbing article in the Toronto Star this morning by John Deverell on the Mack Canada plant situation. We have new information that no one tested for lead in the paint booths. In fact, until January 1984, there was no knowledge of the lead levels in that area. Now reports made in January indicate the lead levels are well beyond the maximum allowable levels. How could that phenomenon occur when the ministry inspects that factory?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the article that appeared in today's issue of the Toronto Star. On the basis of my personal knowledge of the circumstances and of the information that has been made available to me, I am quite disturbed about the inferences contained in the article. I would like to have the

opportunity, rather than making some offhand remarks today, to complete my investigations later today and report to the House tomorrow in full. I will also have the opportunity to make myself available for any questions at that time.

It is a very important question, and I would not be paying the proper respect or courtesy to the question if I tried to answer it in a negative or offhand way. It is a serious matter and one I want to be entirely correct on before I make any statements.

Mr. Peterson: I respect the minister's opinion and I do not want to be unkind, but this is information that should have been in the possession of his ministry. I assume he is briefed immediately, as are other ministers, when a major problem is developing. I am surprised the minister was not already a repository of this information.

I wonder why there was a breakdown in the system when he was investigating this and why it developed. Will he inquire why his ministry has such a poor record in this area? Will he investigate the regulatory breakdown and find out why his inspectors are not protecting workers in this province?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: With respect to the leader of the official opposition, I cannot agree in any sense to a statement that we are not properly protecting the workers and not properly inspecting the work places. That is simply not the case.

As far as the first part of his question is concerned, I have been briefed. It is not a case of not knowing about the circumstances. It is a case of wanting to come here and report accurately and clearly to everyone.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that this has been an ongoing problem for more than two years at Mack Canada at Oakville? If he is, can he explain why it is that workers like George Gallant must continue to fight delays and runarounds by his ministry staff, which the minister has them do instead of ordering them to enforce the legislation and the lead regulations? Is he prepared to intervene as he did at Westinghouse and have his staff order engineering controls to protect the workers at Mack Canada from this very toxic substance?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, certainly I am prepared to resolve the matter, as I have in other cases. Perhaps I should wait for tomorrow to make even this point because I am not absolutely sure, but let me raise it in any event. It appears this matter has been discussed with members of the third party as long as three or four months ago. They know that whenever they

bring anything to my attention—whether it is in a note across the floor or in the form of a question—I respond to it immediately. If it is a serious question now, it was an equally serious question three months ago.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, on a regular basis we have crocodile tears instead of action from the Minister of Labour on behalf of the workers of Ontario—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Mancini: This is a very serious situation. We watched the government of Ontario stand idly by and not do anything with the asbestos problem. Now we are watching the Minister of Labour stand idly by and tell us he cannot give us the facts he has already received from his staff.

I want to know from the minister whether he has received a briefing today. I want to know exactly what the contents of that briefing are. I am absolutely sure the minister has the lead content levels in that painting booth, and some workers may have been affected.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member may want that information today but I am not prepared to give it today. However, I will give it to him in full tomorrow.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: With the indulgence of the House, I would like to ask all members of the assembly to join me in recognizing and welcoming the Honourable David Waddington, QC, member of Parliament for the constituency of Ribble Valley and Minister of State for Home Affairs of the United Kingdom, who is in the Speaker's gallery. Mr. Waddington is visiting the Ontario Legislature on the occasion of the Conference on Privacy: Initiatives for 1984, sponsored by the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling).

2:30 p.m.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister who is responsible for privacy; it has to do with section 18 of the legislation he has tabled today. That section deals with all the excuses that various heads of public institutions can give for refusing information. I would like to ask him to comment on the one that says the head of a public institution "may refuse a request for access to a record that contains...(c) information the disclosure of which could prejudice...the competitive position of a public institution."

I ask the minister to consider an example. Ontario Hydro is in a competitive position with oil and natural gas, as the "talking" furnace tells us all the time. Is the minister seriously arguing, as I gather from clause 18(1)(c) that he is, that the head of Ontario Hydro can refuse to provide us with information regarding the cost of the nuclear program because that might have an effect on the competitive position of Ontario Hydro with respect to natural gas?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, that is not the intention of the section. The section is there for those agencies that are involved in research and development and have worked long and hard at the taxpayers' expense to produce a viable, marketable product.

The idea behind the section was to protect research and development so the cost to the taxpayers of producing that research and development could be recouped to the benefit of the taxpayers. I was thinking more of firms like the Urban Transportation Development Corp. in terms of that section.

Mr. Rae: If that is what this section is intended to do, that is not what it says.

Going down the list on page 13, one could drive a truck through the exemptions. For example, quoting from clause (f), another exemption is "plans relating to the...administration of a public institution that have not yet been...made public." The minister has just stated the problem there. That is exactly the problem: they have not been made public. What he has said is, "If they have not been made public, we are not going to be making them public." That is what that section says.

What kind of legislation is this? How can the minister expect people to take this legislation seriously when it has the kinds of exemptions and loopholes that exist in this act?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The particular section the honourable member is referring to refers to the fact that a number of plans that are being evolved and developed but are not in the final stages would not be made public until they were at that particular stage. The problem is in the interpretation of what is being put forward and the fact that many of these plans are printed over a period of time and therefore are made public on a regular basis. That is the intent of that clause.

I hope we will have a lengthy debate on each and every one of these subsections during the committee hearings, after second reading. I will be pleased to expand on or explain as many of the subsections as any member of the Legislature wants to talk about.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, in the minister's statement he takes away the partisan content of refusal of a minister to provide information with the suggestion that we are going to have a committee of the Legislature review the reports which the commissioner is going to be making, at least for the first three years. Since a majority of members on that committee will support the government and the cabinet ministers who are making the decision, how can any independence flow from that compared with the proper and appropriate independence that an involvement of the courts would bring?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, all committees of this Legislature are formulated in accordance with certain rules of the House. This particular committee will mean that—

Mr. Ruston: The minister ought to resign and go home.

Mr. Wrye: He should just say he is right and go home.

Mr. Philip: We have really seen that in public accounts.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, some opposition members are telling me to sit down and some are telling me to answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: It is a different procedure to have a select committee of the Legislature set up in legislation which guarantees the formation of that select committee. The members of the opposition will have the opportunity to look at the report and will have the chance to have their say within that committee as they would on any other matter.

Mr. Rae: There is a section I do not see referred to extensively in the minister's opening statement, but it is a section that drives a truck through the legislation. In subsection 44(7), on page 35, it says:

“(7) The privacy and information commissioner shall not examine a record or require it to be produced and shall not take evidence in respect of its contents where,

“(a) the clerk of the executive council certifies that the record is a record of the executive council...”

That entire cabinet exemption excludes all kinds of documents that should not be excluded. Anything that is designated as a cabinet document cannot be looked at. That could include polls or anything.

“(b) the Attorney General certifies that he has reasonable grounds for believing that the record is a record to which section 19 applies....”

How can the minister justify excluding from the privacy commissioner's eyes the chance even to look at certain documents simply on the signature of certain officials, in one case a senior bureaucrat and in the other case the Attorney General? Does he not think that if he is going to have an independent review, the person to whom he is giving those powers should at least have the ability to examine those documents himself or herself, before being told by some civil servant or cabinet minister that he or she is not even allowed to look at the documents?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The leader of the third party well knows the exemption contained in clause 44(7)(a) is the same kind of exemption that is contained in the federal Access to Information Act. Actually, that kind of exemption was recommended by the Williams commission.

The problem of identifying what is or what is not a cabinet document should fall on some individual; someone has to vouch for it. Under the federal bill, I understand there was some problem in establishing who was going to name a document as being a cabinet document. In terms of the secretary of the cabinet, the reason we put the clerk of the executive council was so that one person would be responsible for saying a document was or was not a cabinet document.

The second exemption relates to our belief that law enforcement records need this additional protection. Any certificate the Attorney General would give would be reported to the Legislative Assembly.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROGRAM

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my next question is for the Minister of Health. First, would the minister care to comment on the fact that in the budget he has announced for his ministry, the money that is going to the assistive devices program has been cut, as I am sure the minister knows, by more than \$1 million? Second, can he comment on a letter I have just received from the March of Dimes concerning Joseph Hysen, a 57-year-old man who is confined to a wheelchair and lives in my riding?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are too many private conversations for us to hear the question. If you want to carry on private conversations, please carry them on outside the House.

Mr. Rae: The minister will know that his assistive devices program has been cut and only covers people who are under the age of 18. How does the minister feel about the fact that this gentleman, for example, is having to find \$4,000 to be able to obtain a motorized wheelchair? If he were under the age of 18, he would be able to obtain some assistance from the Ontario government, but since he is over the age of 18 he is receiving no assistance and now the budget has been cut.

Why is the minister cutting back that budget and not doing anything for Mr. Hysen? There are literally hundreds of other people such as him across the province who need assistance with respect to these devices, who are not getting any assistance from the government, who are in need and who are being cut off as a result of the government's economic policy.

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member might not recall, because I think the introduction of the assistive devices program occurred a few years ago, before he became a member of this Legislature—

Mr. Renwick: Not very long ago, and you know it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I believe, if I am not mistaken, it was before he became a member of this Legislature.

Mr. Renwick: Yes, but not that long ago.

An hon. member: He has not been here very long.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are going to have to take a Valium, too, Jim. My gosh.

Mr. T. P. Reid: He has been here longer than Earl McEwen has.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Those members who choose to remember will recall that at the time this program was introduced by my predecessor once removed it was indicated it would be evaluated during the first two-year period of its functioning with a view to determining the appropriate way in which to extend it beyond that period. That two-year period, if I am not mistaken, ends in July of this year.

So the honourable member is quite correct that those over the age of 18 at the present time are not part of the program as it has been defined. It is, though, a matter on which I am preparing to bring

forward recommendations to my colleagues in the very near future.

Mr. T. P. Reid: We heard that from your predecessor.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am surprised you hear anything the way you babble over there.

Furthermore, the budget as in the printed estimates does not represent any program cut whatsoever. If the member checks back in our estimates and looks at the actual expenditures in the program, he will find the expenditures have not, in the previous couple of years, reached the anticipated level of expenditure. That is not because of any restrictions on the program—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Sure. It was cheaper than you thought.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —it is just that the experience with the age group under 18 has not been as was projected at the time.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Why do you not extend it? You have that money anyway.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The printed estimates actually represent a substantial increase over and above the actual expenditures.

Mr. Rae: The minister's budget reveals a set of priorities for the Ministry of Health that can only be described as screwy. The underserved areas program, which serves the needs caused by shortages of medical practitioners in northern Ontario, is down 11 per cent, or \$600,000; the outbreaks of diseases program has dropped by 20 per cent, or \$2.6 million. The major increase in the ministry's budget, as the minister will know, is in doctors' fees—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: —which are up substantially on the institutional side. On the protective side, on the public health side and on the mental health side there have either been no increases in terms of inflation or there have been actual cuts.

How does the minister explain the screwy priorities in spending in his ministry, and how does he justify a failure to act specifically in terms of assistive devices to people who are over the age of 18? If he says he has the money and he has the leeway, if he has not been spending the budget, as he alleges he has not, why not expand the program to include people who are over 18, who right now are being denied things they should be able to get?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I find it difficult to see that the second question is in any way supplementary

to the first. But I would point out to the honourable member that if he had listened to what I said, I indicated that a time frame was established at the inception of the program for its review with a view to expansion. That is currently under way, and when the time is appropriate, I will be bringing forth the recommendations.

I would suggest that in respect to the member's inability to understand the printed estimates and the priorities that are reflected in them, he should take a little more time to reflect upon them. I think he will see some sense and reason there, and then he may be able to raise these matters more effectively during our estimates debate.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I understood the minister made a commitment earlier this session that he was going to extend the program by the end of this session, or certainly before the summer, if we expected some results. When we have a situation in which the March of Dimes in the one-year period between April 1, 1982, and March 31, 1983, was approached by 1,637 people across this province for assistance with assistive devices totalling an average of \$10,000, all those people cannot be assisted by private charities or by the March of Dimes. Why does the minister not extend the program to cover adults now?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that question even invites a response. I have already answered the question. There are rational and sensible ways to approach program evaluation and program and policy development, and there are irrational ways. The member's way is the latter.

Mr. Rae: The minister's and the government's priorities are an absolute disgrace. When one hears from the March of Dimes case after case of people who have to spend hundred of dollars and who are not able to get the devices they need, it is nothing short of a disgrace that this should be happening in Ontario.

Can the minister comment on the fact that in the letter sent to me by the chairman of the Ontario March of Dimes bringing Mr. Hysen's case to my attention, he says: "Physically disabled adults in financial need who might be eligible for some form of government funding, most of it discretionary, must go through a tangle of red tape and bureaucracy, only too often to discover that funds are not available to them. Voluntary agencies such as the Ontario March of Dimes do their best to assist in the process to provide funds whenever possible; however, it is

becoming increasingly difficult to meet all the needs"?

Since we have this overwhelming evidence from the March of Dimes and other organizations and since we have a clear group of people who are in need, what is holding the government back? It cannot be the advisory committee, because that committee has said: "The program has been a tremendous success in stage 1. Go ahead with stage 2 right away." What is holding the government back when there are people in need in this province? Why is it not doing anything about it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not familiar with the letter the member refers to. If he had been around at the time, he would recall the program was introduced with the encouragement and co-operation of a number of charitable agencies in the private sector. If the gentleman to whom the member refers, who has so kindly corresponded with him on the subject, no longer has that commitment then perhaps some other agencies do.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister responsible for freedom of information. According to his statement on the proposed legislation we may expect, he apparently is prepared to leave things in the future exactly as they are now.

Is the minister not the least bit embarrassed that citizens of Ontario have to go to the capital of a foreign country to seek information about Suncor or Ontario Hydro, to the Securities and Exchange Commission in the United States. That information is refused routinely by his cabinet colleagues and that will not change in this legislation.

Will this bill the minister is going to be bringing in change the habits, say, of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt), who refuses to give waybill information on toxic waste shipments to Ontario destinations; information that is readily accessible in the various states of the United States?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, it will change the situation in relation to information about an agency such as Ontario Hydro. It will not change the situation with regard to a company such as Suncor, because it is not an agency of the government as such. We are a minority shareholder in that company.

There will be a defined line between the agencies that will fall within the legislation and

those that will fall outside the legislation. The member may not believe, and I do not think anything I say today is going to make him believe, the situation will be different once this bill is in place.

I hope the member and other members of his party will give it an opportunity to show how it can work and how it will produce more information the day after it is passed than the day before it is passed.

Mr. Breithaupt: I have conceded that the minister's bill would not guarantee the release of government opinion polls paid for by the public. He will recall that in minority government days those polls were released by the Premier (Mr. Davis) only under the threat of a Speaker's warrant.

Since the minister stated in a radio interview this morning that his government has been in power so long that it probably could get away without introducing any legislation in this area, could he explain to us why even he has discredited the principle of this legislation before it has even been introduced?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I do not know how many times I have to say this, but we believe this is a good piece of legislation. We believe it will improve the access by the public to public information. We believe it will protect individuals against the misuse of personal information. Whether the member wants to believe that is one question, but that is what I believe, that is what the cabinet believes and I think it is a good bill.

FAMILY MAINTENANCE ORDERS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, is the Attorney General aware there are 30,000 or 40,000 women in Ontario who today are not receiving the support from their spouses they should be getting? It is a cause of enormous anguish to them. It causes them an enormous loss of income. It also costs the government of Ontario and various municipalities a lot of money.

There has been an incredible delay in implementing changes in legislation. The government of Manitoba has introduced some changes in its legislation which have meant automatic enforcement, the aggressive garnishment of wages and a new policy that gives a role to the crown to enforce those maintenance orders.

What in the name of goodness is the delay in Ontario in introducing the changes in the legislation that the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) discussed last June and that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has discussed on several occasions? What is the delay in bringing in the changes

to ensure some justice for the 30,000 or 40,000 women and the thousands more children in Ontario who are looking for justice in terms of income support from their spouses or fathers?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, it is not very helpful to compare the situation in Manitoba with that in Ontario. Obviously, our situation is infinitely more complex.

As I indicated to the House a few weeks ago, we have been working on a number of initiatives, recognizing that the government would like to assist further in a situation that has been traditionally regarded as the responsibility of the individual litigants. That responsibility is to enforce their own judgements.

I have indicated and I believe the Deputy Premier has indicated we will be announcing specifics in relation to these initiatives before the Legislature adjourns.

Mr. Rae: This is really shocking. The legislation the minister is talking about is not on any must-have list that has been discussed with the House leaders.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: It is not on any priority list from the government. Even if the situation in Manitoba is so completely different, even if the neighbouring province to ours is so totally different from Ontario, why is the Attorney General so quick to reject, as he apparently has, the reforms that have been undertaken in Manitoba? They have changed a situation in which the compliance rate in 1979 was 15 per cent. It was lower even than it is today in Ontario, where it is about 25 per cent. In 1983, the compliance rate was up to 85 per cent in Manitoba. That province has managed to turn the situation around.

What has been the delay? This was something promised last June by the Deputy Premier. It has been talked about all year. What is the delay in ensuring that women who have received court maintenance orders can go to court and get the assistance of the government and the crown in getting those orders enforced? The burden of ensuring justice should not be placed on such women. Why does the government not play a role in ensuring that maintenance is paid and that people live up to their responsibilities in this Family Unity Month, so ordained by the minister's own government?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: If the leader of the New Democratic Party was sincerely interested in this issue, he would appreciate that most of the initiatives will of necessity be of a nonlegislative nature. Obviously, a very extensive system of

administration will be required in order to substantially alleviate the situation. It is not just a question of appearing in court; we are talking about locating many thousands of people who default on these orders, and it is a very major administrative undertaking.

As I said a few moments ago, we have committed ourselves to making a statement as to the nature of the initiatives that we propose before the end of the spring.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, in the minister's statement of initiatives, is it his intention at the present time to introduce any legislative amendments which will have to be attended to before the Legislature rises, or will the legislative changes be part of the expected entire review of the Family Law Reform Act, which we hope we will be seeing and proceeding with reasonably soon?

Can it all be attended to by administrative requirement, or will we be dealing with legislative requirements, which I am sure would receive quick and prompt approval on all sides of the House?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the major initiatives will be of a nonlegislative nature. I cannot assure the honourable member there will not be some legislative initiative. A decision has not been made. Obviously, the decision has to be made in the very near future if that is going to be passed before the Legislature rises.

In so far as being part of the overall amendments that will be proposed to the Family Law Reform Act, this will be kept separate because some of these amendments to the Family Law Reform Act are going to involve a considerable amount of debate and discussion, probably before the standing committee on administration of justice in this Legislature.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Once more, if I may, with the indulgence of the House, I was apparently premature in recognizing the Honourable David Waddington, QC, member of Parliament for the constituency of Ribble Valley. I have been advised that the honourable gentleman is now in the Speaker's gallery. I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming him to Ontario.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' DISPUTE

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I would like to place a question to the Minister of Labour regarding the strike at Ontario Hydro. It is now apparent that the Minister of Energy (Mr.

Andrewes) has shown little leadership in trying to get the strike settled and has allowed Ontario Hydro to botch the negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Would the Minister of Labour be prepared to use his good offices to try to influence a settlement, since the Minister of Energy has botched up the whole works?

The reality is that Ontario Hydro has settled with some of the workers. I want to inform the minister that the employees' union of Ontario Hydro has settled for a 5.3 per cent increase and the professional staff at Ontario Hydro has settled for approximately five per cent and maybe a bit more.

Why is it proper for these other workers in Ontario Hydro to be able to settle at the level of the top of the guidelines as outlined by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman)? Why is such a settlement not fair for the construction workers, in particular the electrical workers who are on strike?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, first, I do not particularly appreciate the honourable member, for whom I have a great deal of personal respect, taking a shot at one of my colleagues through me. The Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) is one of the most capable members of the cabinet and has been doing an extremely good job. That type of comment does not become the member opposite.

As far as the question is concerned, as I have said before in the House, it is not my responsibility to comment on offers that are rejected or accepted or whatever the circumstances may be. Each work stoppage is unique in itself. There are some situations where it is imperative that the mediators get back in right away and try to get the parties together. Others require a cooling-out period. Still others have fairly entrenched positions and it is difficult to get the parties back together.

I think what we have with Ontario Hydro at present is a case of entrenched positions. Hydro has settled with most of the other construction trades. As I understand it, the demands of the electricians are a little higher than what has been settled with the other trades and that is the reason for Hydro's entrenchment, so to speak. On the other hand, the electricians feel they are justified in asking for a little bit more as far as the construction industry is concerned, so they are entrenched in their position.

My senior officials are in touch with the parties almost on a daily basis. They are ready to

conduct mediation services at the drop of a hat, but it takes both parties together to mediate.

Mr. Mancini: Due to the incompetence of the Minister of Energy, we will soon have 8,000 construction workers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mancini: —unable to do their work.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Mancini: My supplementary question deals with safety at the work site as a result of the strike. We have been notified that Hydro management and professional staff have received a memo, dated May 15, which states to supervisory personnel: "You are required to perform work beyond your normal duties. The significant essential areas of work to which you may be assigned involve the garter spring repositioning program, electrical maintenance and repairs and emergency outages."

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Mancini: Would the minister inform the House whether he believes the work sites are safe when the supervisory personnel are expected to do their own jobs and, at the same time, to do the very serious work of the electrical workers? I want to know from the Minister of Energy whether his health and safety inspectors have visited these sites to ensure the health and safety of the other workers on the job are being protected in view of the incompetence we have seen from the Minister of Energy.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Perhaps I could correct the record. The member referred to me as the Minister of Energy. I have enough problems with being Minister of Labour without being Minister of Energy as well.

It is my understanding that management who are qualified to do electrical work but are not members of the IBEW are doing some electrical work at Pickering related to garter spring repositioning and at Darlington related to electrical embedments in concrete. As far as the safety of the work place is concerned, the regular cyclical inspections are going on. I have not had any complaints—this is the first suggestion of one today—that the work place is unsafe.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Despite the fact that the minister indicated he understood the union was in touch with the members of our party before this came out in the press, does he not realize that the union was attempting to get the

ministry to enforce the health and safety regulations? We advised them to continue to do that.

With this in mind, is he aware that the workers at Mack Canada still do not even have the respirators that were recommended by the ministry staff? Does it not indicate a complete failure of the internal responsibility system when a management is unwilling to co-operate even in providing respirators? When it was obvious the lead levels were excessive and the company was not going to co-operate, why did the ministry not enforce compliance with the law?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, in fairness to the honourable member opposite, I did imply that when he found out about this problem he should have sent it over to me and I would have followed it up personally at that time. I still feel that way; I still wish he had done it.

However, in fairness to him, it is my understanding he did advise the persons who came to him that they should use the internal responsibility system, and I commend him for that. That is the way the system does work in 99.9 per cent of the cases, but there are exceptions, and I like to hear about those personally.

I have been briefed; I want to make that clear. I also want to make it clear I was aware there were problems there before the article hit the newspaper. I was also briefed on it after it was in the newspaper. However, I am not totally satisfied with the information I received in that briefing, and this is why I do not want to make any premature statements here in the House.

For example, the member for Algoma referred to respirators. It is my preliminary understanding that the ministry suggested or ordered an improved type of respirator.

Mr. Wildman: Yes, and they still do not have them.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Let me finish, please. It is my understanding that when an inspection was made, this improved type of respirator was being used.

Mr. Wildman: No. Wrong.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: That is my understanding, but that is the reason I do not want to stand in this House and make statements I am not sure of. I want to check on them so I can come in here tomorrow and tell the member whether that is indeed the case or not.

Mr. Wildman: For the benefit of the record, I should indicate to the minister that I advised the union to continue pressing the ministry to enforce the regulation. I did not advise them to continue

working through the internal responsibility system.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Wildman: When it was obvious that the company would not institute engineering controls, as suggested in the draft booklet, Designated Substances in the Work Place—A General Guide to the Regulations, produced by the ministry, why did the area supervisor, Bud Bergie, not go in and enforce the regulation? Was it that Mr. Bergie was simply passing on the high test results and the reports to higher-ups in Toronto for decisions, as he testified he was doing in the Westinghouse case before the Ontario Labour Relations Board? Is this not an example of what we have been saying all along, that the decision of this board is viewed by the ministry staff as a licence to continue acting as they have in the past?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, with respect to your position, I wonder whether that is supplementary or not. The questions relate to Westinghouse rather than to Mack Canada.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, we will gladly await the minister's reply tomorrow on the details of this very unfortunate situation. We just sincerely hope he does not go out into the scrum, have a press conference and release the information to the press either today or tomorrow before he informs the members.

Mr. Speaker: It is my hope that you have a question.

Mr. Mancini: Is the minister going to conduct a review internally to find out exactly what went wrong within his own ministry to allow this to happen? Is he going to take special action and put his ministry personnel across the province on alert to be especially careful about this particular safety hazard for workers and to ensure that if there are unsafe conditions, they be reported to the minister immediately for action?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: First of all, on the first question with respect to releasing it to the media or talking to the scrum, I do not think I have ever done that in the five years I have been here and I am not ready to begin now. I respect the traditions of this House too much to do that.

Second, I am not convinced at the moment that anything has gone wrong within the ministry. I am not jumping to hasty conclusions until I have had the opportunity to find out exactly what has gone wrong.

ELMIRA LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The minister must be aware that a few weeks ago seven chemical companies admitted that dioxins in the herbicides they manufacture cause genetic deformities and cancer. The companies include Uniroyal, located in Elmira, and Dow Chemical. The minister is aware they reached an out-of-court settlement wherein they paid \$180 million into a fund which will be used to compensate 15,000 Vietnam veterans and their families—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Epp: I was just coming to that. Thank you for the suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the fact that Uniroyal's chemical division in Elmira was informed as early as 1965 about the toxicity of the dioxins in the Agent Orange it was producing, did Uniroyal inform the government about the problem? Did the government take the appropriate measures to protect the environment and the people in the area? Was his ministry informed or were the predecessor ministries having responsibility for the matter in the mid-1960s informed? If not, when did his government learn about the problem?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of questions involved in the very lengthy statement made by the honourable member. I do not know the date that my ministry—

Mr. Speaker: Pick one.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I will attempt to pick one. There are a number of good ones, but I will pick the one that will perhaps be most operative for the member.

The case the member is referring to is a civil case that is ongoing in the United States. It is not a jurisdictional matter for Ontario or Canada. There is, however, some validity in the comment that some of the chemicals involved in that case may well have been produced at Elmira at the Uniroyal plant.

I will look into the matter to see when my ministry was informed. I think the member is aware that the Ministry of the Environment in Ontario did not come into being until 1972, and he was referring to the mid-1960s. Certainly, as the ministry is now structured, it could not have been informed prior to 1972 because we did not have a Ministry of the Environment.

Mr. Epp: The minister is aware that I referred to his ministry or his predecessor ministries—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Epp: —or the predecessor departments. It was the same government in power. As the minister for privacy indicated, it has been in power for more than 40 years and nothing will get it out, not even the fact it denied the people the freedom of information act.

In light of the settlement, I would like to ask the minister whether he would undertake additional drilling to determine the dioxins that might be present and to increase the ministry's monitoring programs to ensure that the water supply for the town of Elmira is safe.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am quite satisfied that the amount of control we have on the Elmira site is more than adequate. I have stated this in the House on a number of occasions. We have test wells not only on the site but off the site. We are attempting to use the best technology available today to determine whether there is any off-site migration of contaminated chemicals. The reality is that we have the situation totally under control at this time. Whatever future steps may be necessary will be taken by my ministry, but additional drilling or additional wells in that area are not going to be of help at this time.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Last Tuesday I asked the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) a supplementary question to a question by my leader concerning acid rain. At that time, I requested the opportunity to rise and correct the record with respect to my question. I would like to attempt to correct the record at this point, if I may.

I indicated in my question that the Premier (Mr. Davis) had promised to install two scrubbers at Ontario Hydro coal-burning plants. I would like to advise that it was not the Premier himself directly who made that statement. The statement was made by the Lieutenant Governor in the speech from the throne. I will quote a short passage from that document to set the record straight:

"My government remains firmly committed to having Ontario Hydro reduce the acid gas emissions from its coal-fired generating stations by half by the year 1990. As a public corporation, Ontario Hydro must set an example for others to follow. Hydro will undertake whatever steps are necessary to meet the emission levels stipulated in the government's regulation. These steps will include designing and retrofitting scrubbers." It then goes on to set out other steps.

That is the statement upon which I based my question. It was not the Premier himself but the

Lieutenant Governor of this province reading the speech from the throne.

PETITIONS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Hodgson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition on behalf of 362 of my constituents who have signed the said petition. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, supporters and friends of the Holland Marsh District Christian School, respectfully ask for your support to redress an injustice.

"Provincial grants normally follow children from one board of education to another within the public and separate school systems all over the province. However, when parents choose to enrol their children in the Holland Marsh District Christian School, not a provincial cent follows them.

"For the past 40 years we have faithfully and effectively provided quality education to the children of the Christian parents in our community. We are people of modest financial means who have faithfully paid our taxes but are having a difficult time financing our schools. We feel we are entitled to receive at least some of the money we have paid for the education of our children.

"In a democratic and pluralistic society, choices in education should not carry a financial penalty."

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private member's bill of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wine in small, independent grocery stores.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons à l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

This petition is signed by a further 259 people, bringing the grand total to 6,417.

3:20 p.m.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

MOTION

WITHDRAWAL OF BILL Pr14

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that at the request of the applicant the order for Bill Pr14, An Act respecting the Yonge-Rosedale Charitable Foundation, be discharged and the bill withdrawn and, further, that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CANADA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES ACT

Mr. Di Santo moved, seconded by Mr. Allen, first reading of Bill Pr16, An Act to incorporate Canada Christian College and School of Graduate Studies.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is set out in the preamble.

PRIVACY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

Hon. Mr. Sterling moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 80, An Act to provide for a Right of Access to Government Information in Ontario and to provide Protections respecting the Collection and Use of Personal Information.

3:59 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. Sterling's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Eaton, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gregory, Grossman, Havrot, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolin, Leluk, McCaffrey, McEwen, McMurtry, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell;

Norton, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Robinson, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Treleaven, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Boudria, Bradley, Breagh, Breithaupt, Cassidy, Charlton, Copps, Cunningham, Di Santo, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Kerrio, Mackenzie, Mancini, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Rae, Reed, J. A., Reid, T. P., Renwick, Ruston, Sargent, Spensieri, Stokes, Sweeney, Wildman, Wrye.

Ayes 55; nays 35.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS ACT

Mr. Mitchell moved, seconded by Mr. Gillies, first reading of Bill Pr22, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET OFFICE (concluded)

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Chairman, the Premier (Mr. Davis) is involved in the most thoughtful discussion he has been in for the last couple of days and I do not want to interfere with that.

I want to go back to the discussion we were having the other day. I thought the discussion we had in this chamber when we commenced the estimates a week or so ago was most constructive and meaningful. We got some new insights into the Premier's real thoughts about a number of issues, including his view of his responsibility to lead as opposed to govern. It was most constructive from that point of view. I think it was one of those conversations the historians may look back to, determined to find a definitive statement on

this government's role with respect to its own leadership.

I want to pursue another issue with the Premier today. I want to ask him a question with respect to the domed stadium. When he commissioned his good friend and associate Mr. Macaulay to undertake a committee review of that situation, why did he ask him to determine the second question first, i.e. where it should go, as opposed to the questions: Do we need one? Can we afford one? How are we going to afford one? What will be the source of capital and operating funds? What will it do to existing facilities? Why would he go to the second stage first rather than deal with questions as they develop? As he knows, there are many unanswered questions in that regard at present.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I think that is a very proper question. There really is not a line in my estimates that covers the stadium, nor we do contemplate a major financial expenditure in the current fiscal year.

I think the origins are very simple, if we go back historically in this city. When we talk about the major league ball franchise, we are talking about a larger area than Metropolitan Toronto. When we talk about the Argonauts, we do extend into Mississauga, Brampton and other parts. Of course, there is a division when we get over towards Burlington because of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

I do not think there is any question that the reason Metropolitan Toronto was successful in attracting the Toronto Blue Jays to this community was the commitment it gave for the addition to the Canadian National Exhibition stadium. The franchise would never have arrived in this city if that had not been the case. Looking at it in historical terms, that stadium was developed to accommodate the major league franchise coming to Toronto.

Historically, it started out as a desire to have a National League franchise. I can recall being in the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce offices with Mr. Webster from Montreal, Mr. Wadsworth from the bank, Mr. Godfrey and Mr. McDougald from Labatts, anxiously waiting to hear whether the San Francisco Giants were going to find a new home here in Toronto, the natural rivalry between Montreal and Toronto being one of the prime reasons they were seeking that franchise.

4:10 p.m.

Of course, the call came through that the mayor of San Francisco, by one means or another, had persuaded the Giants to remain. The

next step was to go to the American League and see whether an expansion could take place. I was not privy to any of those discussions, but I know enough about it to know the precondition was very simple: there had to be a major league baseball stadium.

I think it is fair to state that the stadium as it currently exists served that particular purpose. I do not think there is a person knowledgeable in either professional football or baseball who would for a moment suggest that the existing stadium is adequate. It has served a purpose; it can serve a purpose in perpetuity if one is prepared to accept that.

Mr. Stokes: It is not high on the Premier's priority list.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We will get around to priorities, because this is a very valid question.

I think it is fair to state that on Saturday, Sunday or Monday—whenever it was—there was a crowd there for a Blue Jay game in excess of 40,000 people.

Mr. Rae: It was 43,500.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It was 43,500, whatever the number. I think most people would agree that, of the 43,500 people who were in attendance, probably in the neighbourhood of 25,000 would have had adequate or good seats. I have not attended many baseball games, although I used to watch the Toronto Maple Leafs as often as the Toronto Argonauts when I had more time years ago. Quite coincidentally, the Fleet Street stadium was probably a better facility than most, though it has disappeared, as Varsity Stadium is a better stadium than the Canadian National Exhibition stadium for the purposes of football; no question about it.

But I do attend the odd game, and the CNE stadium is not an adequate stadium for professional football. There is not a knowledgeable person anywhere in the league who would say it compares with either BC Place or even Olympic Stadium in Montreal; it certainly does not compare with Commonwealth Stadium. For the spectators it probably is no better than, if as good as, Ivor Wynne Stadium.

I do not think it is as good as Lansdowne Park, because the sight lines on the south end of the park are not parallel to the touch lines for football. If you are in the main stadium under the roof, which is always comfortable when the weather is inclement, and if you happen to be two thirds of the way back, you have to have very good eyesight, which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) has; he might see fairly

clearly that it is not a good facility for either sport. It is as simple as that.

I think there is a general feeling that if one is to consider professional sport as a part of culture—the honourable member may not agree that it is a part of culture, but there are a number of people who would argue strenuously that it is—there is a need for a new stadium. I think the question is whether that stadium should be a covered stadium. Initially the considerations—which go back some 10 years, as a matter of fact—really related to the kind of stadium. Do you have one? Do you have two? These are matters that have been debated for a number of years.

There is no question that the Grey Cup game here two years ago, which is sort of a national event—people pay fairly high prices to attend it; it is seen on national television right across the country, and, through the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, is viewed in many communities in the United States—turned out to be a bit of a farce because the elements combined to make it so. It was not the fact that the Argonauts lost, believe me. It was a very simple case that the Canadian Football League had indicated there would not be another Grey Cup game at the CNE stadium. That is a reality. It may not be the end of the world; no one may worry about it, but there are a number of football fans and people related to the CFL who feel it would be regrettable.

I really think the assumption has been made that there is a need for a new stadium. The assumption was made that because of the differences in the two sports it would be desirable, if it were financially feasible, to have a domed stadium with a retractable roof. I mentioned the retractable part when the committee was first appointed, because that was not part of the concept as expressed by some people here in Metro; but being a part-time baseball fan when I have the occasion, I would much prefer to view the baseball game in mid-July, with 80-degree temperatures, sitting in the sunshine if at all possible.

Mr. Peterson: With a beer.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I confess I do have shortcomings. I do go to those games, and I can enjoy a total football game and a total baseball game by drinking hot chocolate if the weather is cold or a soda water or what have you if it is warm; beer is not essential to my enjoyment of the game. That is not shared by every member of our family, and it is certainly not shared by a large percentage of those who do attend; so there is now beer.

We really reached a point where there were many different points of view with regard to how it should be done and where it should be done. Obviously, something of this nature cannot be developed by any one level of government, in my humble opinion. I said at the outset that there should be an involvement by the private sector with regard to financial contribution; I still believe that to be the case.

Certainly any possible provincial participation would be by way of lottery funding, not tax money. The members can debate the priorities of that. I would also observe that there are certain economic benefits. I could refer the Leader of the Opposition to studies made at the University of Georgia, when the Braves were being wooed to move to Atlanta, on the economic impact with regard to the cost of building a facility for that professional baseball team and the economic impact it created in the general community.

One can get studies that relate not only in terms of professional baseball but also in terms of professional football—one can get studies now from the city of Indianapolis that show conclusively the move of the Baltimore Colts to Indianapolis with regard to the economic impact on that community goes far beyond just the sale of tickets or the rentals they will receive from the Colts or whatever they are to be called.

The province's participation has been to provide some measure of focus, to bring this not necessarily to a conclusion but at least put us in the position, all of us who have some thoughts or responsibility, to make a logical, intelligent decision.

I was in BC Place for the Grey Cup; it is a first-class facility. I have discussed this in a broad sense with the Premier of British Columbia. There was no question that there were criticisms and reservations about BC Place when it was being promoted and developed. My own instincts tell me that even some colleagues of the member for York South (Mr. Rae), who were somewhat vociferous in their opposition in the early stages, would quietly say it has been a great thing for Vancouver.

The success of BC Place will be predicated upon getting an expansion franchise in either the American League or the National League. Without that, the viability of a stadium is a lot tougher. While the Canadian Football League is a major league professional sport, it still does not provide enough with regard to the numbers of dates. The BC Lions probably have 10 or 12 home dates, as do the Toronto Argonauts, whereas the Blue Jays have somewhere around

72 or 75; I am only guessing. One is talking about 10 home dates and let us say an average of 45,000 fans for the Argos, that is a total of half a million fans, whereas one can get up to two million fans in the proper facility for the Blue Jays.

It is not just an interest on my part. I will go to the games whether they are at the Canadian National Exhibition or whether they move back to Varsity Stadium, which they never will; whether there is beer or there is not beer. I think the feeling is that this would be potentially an economic asset for the broader community, not just Metropolitan Toronto, and that governments have a responsibility to assess these things in terms of other priorities.

I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that in some communities, and perhaps it is not as well known, some would have questioned our initial involvement in Roy Thomson Hall. He does not think I have many cultural interests—he communicated this one night on CITY-TV, and I appreciate that—although maybe I have a few more than he totally understands and some modest degree of knowledge of some other cultural activities besides those in the sporting field. I can tell him that in my view Roy Thomson Hall has become a great asset to this community.

Mr. Stokes: When do we get to see the Premier's art collection?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Some day I will show it to the honourable member. He might not be impressed but a shade surprised.

I am not going to equate a stadium with other priorities. It is a question of whether or not one moves ahead in a number of areas at different times. I can share this with the member: if my wife had any say and she were establishing the priorities, an opera house for the city of Toronto would be ahead of the domed stadium. She would make no apologies for that, and I make no apologies for expressing her point of view, because she happens to believe that an opera house in a city of this significance is an essential part of its long-term future. That view may not be shared by other members of the public, but she believes that and I tend to concur with her.

I made a statement at the opening of Roy Thomson Hall that if the domed stadium or any stadium proceeded, the opera house should also see a real measure of consideration and a measure of priority.

4:20 p.m.

I say this with respect. I do not think it is a question of asking Mr. Macaulay, who is a friend—I make no apologies for that at all. He is a friend, a very able person, one of the very

distinguished people in this province. He is not an associate of mine, because I do not have associations; I left that behind me in 1959, some 25 years ago, but he is a friend. I asked him to help in determining, if there were to be a stadium—that “if” was there—what form it should take and what were the preferred locations.

I do not think it is a question of going backwards at all. If the Leader of the Opposition feels there is no need, that the CNE stadium is adequate in perpetuity for a team that may get into the World Series—even this year, with exposure on the networks right across North America and throughout the world community—and if in mid-October, when we may have a few snowflurries, he feels what is there now is adequate—and it may be—that is fair. But I think he will find there are a lot of people who appreciate that at least we are looking at it, Metro is looking at it, and that some consideration is being given to upgrading that facility.

I have tried to abbreviate my remarks—

Mr. Stokes: I am sure glad the Premier did.

Mr. Rae: What does the long answer sound like, just out of curiosity?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I could go into a lot more detail. I can give members the permutations and combinations of what happened at the Kingdome in Seattle, what the costs were, what it led to and what the economic benefits were in downtown Seattle. I can tell the members what happened at the University of Syracuse, which built a dome just for its own college football and basketball teams. I can tell the members how that, in the minds of those at the university, has been viable.

I can tell the members about the proposals in Buffalo and San Francisco and what has happened in Minnesota, but I would be presuming to take too long. If there is anything else the members want to know about the process, or stadiums generally, I will do my best to tell them. I might even surprise the members and give them a few facts and figures, along with some knowledge with respect to opera houses in other cities of the world too.

Mr. Peterson: That is the last time I will ever ask a penetrating question.

Let me ask another question on the same subject, because the Premier did not answer my question. I appreciate the history but most of it was—

Mr. Stokes: What was the question?

Mr. Peterson: The question was why would one ask the second question first when one is building a domed stadium. The question I asked

concerned where it was going, as opposed to the economic rationale for one.

I am mindful of this debate in our society, because I am one of those who thinks we must keep building Toronto and continue its growth as the world-class city it is. We must be forward-looking at all times.

Mr. Stokes: Is the Leader of the Opposition for the domed stadium?

Mr. Peterson: Will the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) stop?

I am saying the Premier has not shared enough information with the public at this point. I recognize the inadequacy of the CNE stadium. However, he also knows that if a stadium is built offsite that has economic repercussions for the CNE, we have to fully understand the effects of whatever decision is made.

I recognize his leadership role in this regard and obviously a number of pieces have to be put into place from the private sector, various levels of government and others. But I am saying he is approaching this question from a backwards point of view. I know the Macaulay commission did not have a very large mandate. I do not know why the Premier did not give them a large mandate. I do not know why he did not say to them: "Do we need a domed stadium? What are the economic ramifications of going to this site as opposed to the other site? What is the best site?"

Obviously that consideration is subsidiary to the big one of how we can do it or whether we can afford it. I am saying there is much information missing in the specifics or consensus of the city of Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto or Ontario.

We can run through the history of a domed stadium in other locations. We do know it has a wide economic ripple effect, that it is a good thing, and I have absolutely no problem with that. But Toronto is a unique city and it would impact on existing facilities. Therefore, why would the Premier not share that information so we can have a higher quality of public, as well as private, debate on this subject? Would he be prepared to share with people in this province whatever information he has on that subject?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think there is a certain measure of contradiction in the Leader of the Opposition's question because—

Mr. Peterson: I do not think so.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say unwittingly there was a measure of contradiction. The Leader of the Opposition was telling me at one point of the economic ramifications or the negative aspects of

a stadium that would not be at the CNE site, and there are some.

Mr. Peterson: What are they? Tell us.

Hon. Mr. Davis: One cannot be totally accurate on how that is quantified, but I will go back to the history again for a moment. If the Leader of the Opposition is saying there has not been enough public interest or discussion on whether a new stadium, domed or not domed—

Mr. Peterson: I am not saying that. Let me correct that. I am saying there is not enough specific information, cost-effectiveness, cost benefit analysis of various locations and the effect of the whole thing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think a great deal of work has been done on that by the committee and by others who have been pursuing this through the Macaulay committee for a number of years.

I am trying to satisfy the member on the one issue. He is saying to me we, or the committee, went at it backwards; we should first have decided whether there should be a stadium. We took it as a given that at some point somewhere in this general area a stadium of some nature, domed or undomed, would be desirable. I have not heard anyone say something of that nature did not make sense. It is a question of whether the member or others believe the CNE site will do in perpetuity.

I think most people involved in sports in this community, and for other purposes, recognize that some time—it may be not this week or next week, but some time—a new facility would make sense. I very simply asked the committee to assess, if it was taken as a given that this would be a wise thing to do some time, where it would be, what form it would take, what are the economics of it, what is the economic viability. This is partially why the committee came down with the Downsview site.

There is no question that, of the four sites considered, with respect to immediacy of construction there are no delays at Downsview. Assuming there would be municipal acceptance, the transportation is there. The infrastructure for transportation at Downsview would be substantially less than the specific CNE site. This would also be true probably with respect to Woodbine, where there is GO service and where we would need an extension, some form of people-mover from the GO line into the stadium. On the basis of the four proposals that were considered, the capital cost—

Mr. Stokes: The Chairman would not agree with the Premier on that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Probably the Chairman has a particular point of view which, because of my geographical location, I might be inclined to share.

Mr. Ruston: Maybe his is the best. Who knows?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly for me it is the best, no question. It is exactly seven minutes away, depending on the colour of the stop lights when I leave my home. It would be wonderful. For the Chairman, it would probably be eight minutes, but it would be desirable. There are, however, certain problems inherent in having a stadium housing the Toronto Blue Jays geographically located in the city of Mississauga. There would be no problem if it had been Brampton. We could have changed the name.

They went at it on this basis. I cannot give the Leader of the Opposition—no one can—the exact economics of a facility of this kind.

Mr. Peterson: They did not give it enough attention.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Sure they did.

There is a history to these facilities. The member has to understand part of it will relate to the success of the tenants. Quite obviously, stadiums have their ups and downs. If they have successful tenants, attendance is going to be up; if attendance is up, there is no question revenues are going to be up. If one starts out with two fairly healthy franchises in this case, the sale of the boxes within the facility will bring a very significant return. I said that whoever might move ahead with this program, there should be no sale of the boxes within the stadium until such time as the stadium is completed.

4:30 p.m.

I did a little research in Dallas a couple of years ago. The member may be aware of it. I was there as a guest of the Young Presidents Organization. He will remember that organization of which he was such a significant part. We went to the Dallas Cowboys' stadium. It is a great facility, developed for one sport only. Incidentally, I was a guest in one of the boxes. I will not tell the member whose guest I was, but he would know the individual well.

As I recall, they paid at the inception of the stadium somewhere around \$200,000 for that single box, which they then had to furnish and for which they had to buy the tickets. Today the market value of that box is in the neighbourhood of \$400,000 to \$500,000. Does the member know what the scoreboard at the new stadium could be worth in revenue to the corporation that

might run it? It could be in excess of \$7 million. He should not ask me to explain or rationalize it. I am just telling him that could be the going market. These things fluctuate. One cannot do a total analysis of the exact revenues on the date we open the doors to the new stadium, but these are some things that are there.

I must also say to the Leader of the Opposition that no study is going to be able to satisfy everybody, or all of us, that everything is totally in place. There is a bit of faith involved in a project of this nature.

The representatives of the Canadian National Exhibition will argue—and will argue with some logic, I am not quarrelling with it—that if the stadium is at Downsview it will mean a reduction in the parking revenues at the CNE, which has an impact on the financial viability of the CNE. They would also argue with total sincerity that by not having the stadium there, it detracts from the CNE itself. I am not sure I quite agree with that, because the CNE was very successful before the Argonauts moved there and before the Blue Jays became a reality. It was still a very viable institution.

I understand what Mr. Cohon has maybe communicated to the honourable member or the mayor of the city and all those people. I have heard all these discussions; however, what they have to keep in mind is that there are certain offsets. For the long-term viability of a stadium at that almost exact location or just to the east of it, there are certain infrastructure costs which are substantially higher than would be the case at Downsview. We have to balance one with the other.

I do not pretend to be an expert in this at all; I just happen to know a little about it. I think the committee did well. I should tell the members of the House—it is not a secret—that since the committee report, we have had indications from another party that believes it has certain land available. The development of a stadium there might be very competitive as it relates to the other proposals.

Mr. Stokes: You mean a famous crown corporation?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, there is no question. It has been in the press. I explained to one or two people as recently as yesterday that this is not a contest of who has the most elaborate proposal or of the time frame. If it is going to happen, it has to be done right.

I have told people as recently as in the past few days that we are seeking further information from Canadian National Railway. Based upon the

information we receive, it will be a question of whether that project or geographic location should be assessed along with the others.

No one is anxious to do this and not do it right, because if it goes ahead it is going to be with us a long time. I have not made the determination about whether it will go back to the committee. We are waiting to see how definitive the CN proposal is.

Mr. Peterson: I guess the Premier has taken it upon himself to make the ultimate decision on whether the CN proposal is worthy of consideration. He has become the repository of all this information. He may or may not refer it on to Mr. Macaulay's committee or reconstruct it in some way. He may or may not be prepared to reassess the Trillium proposal from Mississauga or the Downsview site, depending on availability.

I admit there are virtues and there is no clear answer to any of these questions, but it is as though they could have picked any site, they could have picked the Premier's house in Brampton, and said, "That is the ideal site." They could have asked, "Is it available?" The answer would be no. They were not allowed to go into the entire matter.

The Premier is accepting the inevitability argument, that a new stadium is going to come somehow or other; I accept that in general principle, too. However, he then says, "It may be tomorrow or it may be six or eight months or 20 years from now."

Obviously, an immediacy is developing in this problem and in this whole situation. At the same time, I do not believe we have had a full public discussion of all this. The Premier uses proposal consultants all the time. They come in with a range of options, the high and the low. They look at the financial feasibility and viability and the financing options. They make decisions on that basis. Most businesses do this and most times in government this kind of thing is done as well.

The Premier has not done it in this case. When a public expenditure, or an expenditure from a variety of sources, of \$140 million to \$200 million is involved, with many competing priorities—I admit it is job-intensive and there are a lot of things that cannot be completely tied up—I do not think the Premier has developed that conversation in the right way. I would have had a much wider mandate for that particular group and/or I would have—

Mr. Rae: You would have asked Jerry Grafstein to do it.

Mr. Peterson: Why is the member trying to interrupt all the time?

I would have had a much wider mandate for that committee and I would have asked the first question first. I leave that with the Premier. I think the discussion has been deficient because he has perhaps deliberately promoted it that way.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have not done anything. The Leader of the Opposition is seeking information. I am trying to give him as much as I can, to share as much as I can with him. I am not going to read him the terms of reference. He tends to simplify the process. I asked the committee to make a report on certain aspects. If the decision is made that we should proceed, there is still a lot of homework to be done.

There is a lot of homework to be done with regard to the retractability of a dome. It will be, if it happens, a first. There has to be some objective engineering assessment of that viability.

Mr. McClellan: Come the writs, comes the dome.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No question.

There has to be a greater analysis of the economics. The member may not believe this, but we really have to get around to assessing whether to have 18-inch wood seats, or 20-inch or 22-inch. That is part of the viability of a stadium.

Mr. T. P. Reid: If it is for the cabinet, they have to be 36-inch.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen. I think I can get into an 18-inch seat now, I do not know.

The whole question of how much space must be allocated for private boxes is a way of financing part of the stadium.

I have spent a little time researching in Broward county, as I am accustomed to do on occasion. That upset the member's colleague after Christmas. A stadium debate is going on there in terms of a new facility for the Miami Dolphins somewhere on the Dade-Broward line. I have had conversations with the owner of the Miami Dolphins as to how they might finance that facility. There is no pattern we can go to, but there are a lot of things we can learn from.

There is a lengthy process in terms of retaining architects, engineers, etc., but I think what we are trying to decide is simply whether there should be one. If so, where is the best location, and how do we proceed from that point? I think it will sort itself out.

Mr. Rae: The most important thing we await is the issuing of a writ. That is what we are waiting for and then I think all things will unfold at a remarkably quick speed. On this tremendously difficult question as to whether the seats should

be 18 inches or 24 inches, somehow these existential matters will be resolved by whatever process.

I would like to ask the Premier, in all seriousness—though not expecting a particularly serious reply—if he has a time frame. He has indicated there has been no response from the federal government with respect to the Downsview site. We spent a lot of time waiting for Mr. Macaulay to report and come up with the conclusions he came up with. Then we found there is another party to the proceedings, in the sense that new sites are being proposed all the time.

Does the Premier have some time frame in mind at which point he is going to say yes, we are going to make a decision and this is the way it is going to be and this is how it is going to be financed?

In preface to that, I think a domed opera house or a domed ballet stadium is the obvious compromise. I am surprised the Davis family has not come up with this, given the very different views its members take.

Could I just get from the Premier a short answer? I do not want to prolong this discussion. Of course, we need a world-class stadium in the city of Toronto. The questions seem to be: Where is it going to be and how is it going to be paid for? Those are key questions that Mr. Macaulay, with respect, did not answer. We are still waiting for a resolution of those questions.

4:40 p.m.

Can the Premier give us a time frame as to when he expects this matter to be, in a sense, on the road? There are several empty plants in my riding that could be converted for whatever use the government might have in mind.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I do not have total control of this situation. If the stadium is built, it will not be built totally by the province. There are a number of other participants, not the least of which would be some contribution from the private sector. Some things are being quietly pursued with some genuine vigour.

Mr. Rae: Don't give it all away now. Don't give away too much.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not intend to. I cannot put a time frame on it, but all of us would like to see it brought to a conclusion one way or the other as soon as possible. I assure the member for York South (Mr. Rae) that within our household we did explore at some length—in fact, we involved most of the family—as to whether or not we could find a way to persuade an architect and

an engineer to incorporate, as he has suggested—and it is an excellent idea—the opera and the ballet. We did not know whether the dressing rooms could be shared or whether the acoustics—

Mr. Rae: The Sleeping Beauty on astroturf would be something people would come miles to see.

Hon. Mr. Davis: One might use polyturf and raise a stage in the centre of this great facility. I will suggest again to those who have been giving this very careful consideration that the member for York South says he is totally in support, but he would encourage an opera-ballet facility to be incorporated in the domed stadium. He might have communication with Harold Ballard and want the Maple Leafs to play in another part of the domed stadium. I will suggest that for those who were being a little critical of me because I lent some support to a speedskating oval. Who knows but that might be included. It could be one of the greatest facilities in North America. I am delighted we have taken this time on the subject.

Mr. Rae: I know my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) wants to address some questions about the economy directly to the Premier, but before he does so, in introduction to his remarks, I would like to ask the Premier some questions with respect to what is happening to older workers in Ontario. I am glad the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) is here to hear these remarks.

We have been waiting for some time for a response from the government addressing the problems of older workers as they have been affected not only by technological change but by the disappearance of some plants and some jobs. I would like to ask the Premier if he can explain why there was so little in the budget for older workers.

Is the government intending to do anything with respect to earlier retirement or some guaranteed retraining or some kind of focus on workers who are over 45 or 50 who are affected by the changes happening in the economy and are having a very difficult time adjusting and finding new work? Does the government have any plans with respect to this problem, because this is a group of people that has been largely ignored in the almost exclusive focus on what is happening to younger people?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I appreciate the member for York South recognizing there has to be a balance. In terms of the priorities that the budget indicated, it is easier to identify youth unemployment because it is in some respects, I would not say more manageable, but easier to develop

programs to deal with it in the sense not only of identification, but for a number of young people there has been no history of employment. In other words, we are talking about the involvement of the school system, some alterations at the community colleges, etc.

The question of older worker creates a greater challenge, whether it is totally that of government or government, business and the labour unions. I assure the member for York South that this area has not been neglected and will not be.

I do not say for a moment that the member and I would agree on just how much should be done or how it should be done. He would probably argue for some statutory guarantees, things of that nature, which we might find are not practically acceptable, but I would be delighted to listen to any observations. I can assure the member that the discussions, not just those leading up to the budget per se but those related to the question of manpower training, are obviously not totally focused on young people.

The whole question of mature or older workers who are displaced because of plant closures or technological change is very much a priority of this government. This is being reflected, but not to the degree the member would expect, in terms of some of the existing programs.

Certainly from our standpoint, we will continue to move ahead with them and to encourage new ones. I am not passing the buck, but the more I try to learn about it, the more I think there is an obligation for those companies faced with technological change to take greater initiatives themselves, and that it is in their economic interest to do so.

I think plant closings are one issue. The physical plant is not gone, but the jobs are gone. With regard to technological change, the business is still there; it is being done in a different fashion. I think it is in their economic interest. If some foresight and planning went into it, I think we should expect more from the private sector as far as responsibility for the retraining of personnel is concerned.

With great respect, I think even the honourable member has tended to focus a lot of his public observations on the significant sector of the population which is our youth. We have done the same. To say we are neglecting, are not concerned or are not trying to find ways and means to improve the situation of the mature worker would be incorrect.

Mr. Sweeney: Is it the same issue?

Mr. Rae: It is the same issue and I will be glad to give the member part of the supplementary.

I do not know whether the Premier has seen what we have done, but we have focused a great deal of attention on the question of what is happening to people in the light of the transformation that is taking place.

The Premier will not be surprised that, in my view, what the government is doing in response is not adequate. What the private sector is doing is not adequate either. I do not think the private sector is going to respond on its own. While it may be true the Premier thinks it is in their economic interest to reinvest in retraining and giving workers a chance at the new jobs, frequently that has not happened. If it is not happening, it is my judgement and that of my party that the historic task of government is to cajole the parties into seeing that things get done.

Specifically, I would like to ask the Premier why the government has been so slow in looking at making early retirement possible for some workers. I am thinking particularly of construction workers and workers in heavier industries who really do want to get out at 55 or 60. They want a chance to enjoy their retirement. They frequently have a great deal of difficulty working past the ages of 55 to 60 and are caught in this bind where they are too young to retire and too old to retrain.

I can give some practical examples. I am sure the Premier's riding, as it changes, is becoming similar to my own with respect to its composition. In the last week I have had five construction workers come into my constituency office who are all in their 50s and all facing some degree of physical disability, mainly with their backs. I am sure the Premier is familiar with the problem. They are not in a position to get back into the construction field. Because of language difficulties—all of them are immigrants—they are having tremendous difficulty finding alternative employment. The problem it is creating for them and their families is very substantial and great.

There is really nothing in the budget as to what can be done for those workers. The \$2,000 for somebody who stays in a company for a year does not help people who are working in the construction field because so much of that work is seasonal.

I think the government should be doing what many other governments have had to do, not so much in the United States, but they have certainly been doing it in western Europe, where they have been looking at giving those people who want it a chance to retire earlier. I am not talking about forcing people out or anything of that nature.

4:50 p.m.

I think the government has to address this. If it cannot do it overnight, okay, but it should at least start addressing the problem and raising the issue of why 65 should be the sacred year of retirement in Canada at a time when we are going through this enormous economic transformation. The age of 65 comes from Otto von Bismarck in about 1880. When the Germans created their welfare state, he determined that was to be the age of retirement. That was even before the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) became the Premier and before George Drew became the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That was before you were born.

Mr. Peterson: Nobody lived to 65. That is why they created it then. Your logic would say to put it at 95.

Mr. Rae: The point I am making quite simply to the Premier is that every major economic change of the kind we are experiencing in Canada today—and in North America in the last 200 or 300 years, if one wants to look at it in that kind of perspective—has always been accompanied by a social change in time of work, hours of work, the relationship between work and leisure—every change, if one looks at what has happened in England and around the world.

What disturbs me about the debates that are happening and the policies that are being followed by governments in Canada today is that we see hours of work not being changed; we see overtime being worked like crazy, which to me does not make sense at the present time, and we see people still being required to work until 65 before they can collect either their private pension or any of the public pension plans.

I think the government has been missing an opportunity in not taking a leadership role in the country and raising that issue. My colleagues the member for Hamilton East and the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) have been spending a lot of time raising these issues. I think they are ones the government has to address if we are going to create more jobs for younger people. I frankly see the issues as being connected. If we can somehow encourage some older workers to retire in dignity and with some income support, we can thereby create spaces for younger workers coming into the work force.

Just last week a fellow in my riding said: "I am 62 years old. I would like to retire. I would like to get out. I would like my son to get my job. Why can that not be done?" The answer is that we do not have the kind of social insurance system

today that allows this to happen. Surely we should be moving to create it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think the member has really raised a genuine issue and I do not pretend to have the answers. I was not being critical at all when I suggested where a good part of his emphasis lay, as I understood the things he has been saying for the past few months. What I had read that he had said seemed to concentrate on youth unemployment. I sometimes experience the same situation, except that I never follow my prepared text and some of the things I have said that I think are very relevant are on occasion ignored.

The construction industry, from my perspective, is particularly difficult. How does one develop a plan for early retirement within the construction industry? That, to me, is very tough. Can one do it within the auto sector? Can one make that part of the discussions of the United Auto Workers with the Big Four.

Mr. Rae: They are.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, but to what extent? One gets back to the very basic question that I think we all have to ask ourselves, namely, what is the economic cost of moving in this direction? I am not going to argue that it is not desirable; please do not misunderstand me. But one thing I sense in the auto sector in this province is that we have re-established our position.

I argue strenuously with people who do not agree with me on the issue that we can compete in North America with the offshore imports. Yet if we were to negotiate a system whereby the work week would be substantially reduced, if early retirement became a set pattern that imposed a major increase in costs on the auto sector, it would make it a little tougher for some of us who strenuously argue quotas or content to maintain that argument.

I am not going to get into the debate that has gone—

Mr. Peterson: How can you have it both ways? If you compete, why do you need quotas?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course, the competition depends on our economic capacity to be as productive as those with whom we are competing, although I would—

Mr. Peterson: You said we can be.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are closer to it. I am not sure we will ever, in terms of dollars per hour—

Mr. Rae: You cannot be. How can you be competitive with the Korean dollar right at the moment? You know that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not sure when there are the fluctuations in the dollar. I think we can be and we have become more competitive in the quality of the product and in its public acceptance, and we have made major progress in the last three years in the auto sector. I am just saying we have to be cautious not to go back to square one where we were five or six years ago.

Mr. Peterson: Do we still need content legislation? Do we still need quotas?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Without any question, I think we still need quotas as of this moment. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to publicly say he would encourage Mr. Regan to—

Mr. Peterson: I cannot figure out what the Premier is talking about. He is arguing it both ways.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not arguing it both ways at all. I am saying we are more competitive. I will not say we will be competitive in all senses of the word with, say, Japan in the auto sector. I keep arguing with people who say to me, "That is all the more reason you should allow more imports in." We are not talking about a straight commodity issue; we are talking about almost a lifestyle sort of issue.

Auto workers in Japan earn less money. Leaders of the Opposition in Japan get paid a smaller honorarium for their work. I keep reminding a few doctors who buy imported vehicles that doctors are paid less in Japan. I remind a few lawyers who drive imported vehicles that lawyers are paid less.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier and Mr. Tanaka have a lot in common.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not know him nearly as well as the Leader of the Opposition does, so I do not know whether I have anything in common with him or not. If that is meant as a compliment, I accept it. If it is meant as a criticism, I will ignore it because I do not know him.

Mr. Rae: I think Prime Ministers over there make quite a bit more.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Do they? I always use the term "politicians" in general. If the member is telling me the Prime Minister over there makes more, I will have to re-evaluate that assessment.

To answer the interjection, the point I am trying to make is that I still believe in quotas. We are not at all reticent about considering what we do for older workers, believe me, but from our perspective it has an economic cost. We have to worry about an economic cost because this province is increasingly going to depend on our capacity to compete and to export.

The member for Hamilton East knows as well as anyone in the House that, when we talk about the steel industry, we are competitive at present. We are facing barriers from the United States, but I think we fool ourselves if we get into a discussion on sectoral trading relationships—if steel is sort of the obvious one we put on the table—and think the US steel industry is going to remain as noncompetitive in perpetuity as it is at present. I have no such guarantee, nor do I have any feeling they will not become increasingly more competitive. We have to be very careful.

Mr. Peterson: Are you going to denounce that silly Economic Council of Canada report?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not want to differ with the Leader of the Opposition. I do not go around denouncing anything. I may offer a point of view, but denunciation is not in my character.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Chairman, I was delighted the Premier, in his response to the leader of the New Democratic Party, brought up the question of industry being involved in training. That is the particular issue I would like to discuss with the Premier.

The Premier will probably recall—I believe it was in 1979—the Ontario Manpower Commission did a survey of the industrial heartland of Ontario and discovered that 72 per cent of all skilled tradesmen in that area were trained outside Ontario—as a matter of fact, trained outside Canada. The bulk of them were trained in Europe.

That kind of information had been filtering through from time to time from various reports, but I believe that was the first time an agency of the government of Ontario had pinpointed it quite so accurately. What flowed from that was the need for Ontario industry—as a matter of fact, all Canadian industry, but in this Legislature we are dealing with Ontario industry—to participate more fully in training programs.

5 p.m.

The Premier may be aware that the most recent survey by the Ontario Manpower Commission discovered that only 20 per cent of Ontario industry trains to any significant extent; in other words, 80 per cent does nothing or very little. The figures for western Europe—and I suspect it is probably true of the east as well, but I do not know—are the exact reverse of that. Eighty per cent of their industry trains the kind of skilled people required for the industry.

At first glance, one might suspect there is some cultural difference there, but the difficult thing for someone like myself to understand is

that the same companies that operate in Ontario and do not do any significant training, or in some cases no training at all, also operate in Europe and do extensive training there.

One can only conclude that the difference is the requirement of that jurisdiction. That is what those companies will say when one questions them, as I have. As the industry critic, I do get a chance to move around the province and to speak to some of these companies. They will admit that, first-hand; therefore, what we are left with is that the jurisdictional requirement is the essential difference.

I remember raising that with one of the former ministers of industry, the member for London South (Mr. Walker). The response I got was that if we force industry in Ontario to train they are going to move someplace else. Yet that does not seem to be the case. The companies that operate here and do not train, but operate in Europe and do train, do not move out of Europe because they are required to train there.

If the Premier is truly interested in Ontario industries participating in the training of their own workers, it seems to me—looking at the experience of those companies that operate both here and in western European jurisdictions—that the only way it is going to happen here is if it becomes a legislated requirement.

My understanding is that a broad range of political systems operates in those countries, which include West Germany, France, Italy, Sweden and Britain. In other words, it does not seem to be the particular kind of government that makes the difference there; it seems to be the historical pattern of those countries. That is the relationship they require of industry that is going to operate within their jurisdictions.

I also draw the Premier's attention to a matter concerning Donald Pollock, who is now a vice-president of Spar Aerospace Ltd. and was formerly the chairman of the Ontario Manpower Commission. In his last year with the commission, the 1981-82 year, he had either decided himself or had been asked to conduct a survey across Ontario—we are talking about only a couple of years ago—to try to pinpoint some of these problems we have been discussing this afternoon. He was in the process of drafting a report about those findings.

I have objected in this House on a number of occasions that his report has never been made public. However, I did note an interesting thing. Some two months before he resigned his position—I assume it was before the report was finished or whatever happened to it—Mr. Pollock

did make a number of public speeches. In each case one of the themes was the necessity of requiring industry in Ontario to participate in the training process. I do not know whether that had anything to do with the fact that his report was never completed or released or whether it is opposed to the philosophy of the present government. However, I certainly would like the Premier to speak to the problems from that point of view.

There are a number of different ways in which the system operates. In Japan there is a requirement to train. It is not just in western Europe. These are two of our chief competitors in the international market and we have to work with them. However, the whole question boils down to whether the government of Ontario and the Premier, as the first minister of that government, are prepared to mandate a system that seems to be mandatory in Europe. It boils down to whether we want it to work as well here as it works there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, one has to be very careful in endeavouring to draw parallels. For purposes of discussion we can endeavour to make certain comparisons, which I think is very valid, but I am not sure one can compare either the economic situation here or the traditions in this province or in Canada with those in European or Far Eastern nations. I am not going to argue that there is a significant cultural difference, but I will argue there are some differences.

I can recall a former Minister of Education making a lot of speeches at the time of the introduction of the Robarts reorganized program in the secondary schools of this province.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Oh, it was the Robarts program?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It was. I was given a task. My predecessor introduced it in 1961.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I always thought it was the Bill Davis program.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. I will take some credit or blame for other things. I will give Mr. Robarts full credit for the reorganized program. I can recall doing that. I can recall being in London, England, exploring post-secondary institutions when my predecessor announced in Paris, Ontario, that we would have a county school board system. I came home and endeavoured to deal with that, with the total co-operation of the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), who moved his own interest in the separate school education system in line with it with

enthusiasm. I am not sure that is totally the case, but I recall some discussions.

There are some cultural or traditional differences. If one looks at any analysis of the school systems in western Europe, one will find—certainly in the United Kingdom, and I think it is true in West Germany, but I cannot comment with the same degree of accuracy on Italy or France—that in terms of the young people in those age groups who actually complete a high school program, whether it is grade 12 or grade 13, the percentages in this country are somewhat in excess of those in western Europe. It is also true in the United States. I think one can draw parallels between our situation and that in the United States with some greater measure of accuracy.

I still sense that within some school systems in western Europe there may not be a class situation per se, but there are situations where there is not the same mobility, flexibility or incentive for young people to move through the educational system in the more general forms of education.

What I am going to say next may sound contradictory, but while I am totally in support of what the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) has said about skills training and the technological orientation of some of our activities, one will never get me to discourage a young person going through our high school system from taking—I never would call it a liberal education—a general education, because I happen to believe that is rather fundamental to one's ability to adjust in times of technological change.

One has to be careful not to go too far in saying that everybody must have a particular skill. I do not know whether society is going to lose that much if a percentage of young people takes a general arts education at the University of Toronto or any other post-secondary institution. I do not think it is all bad if a person takes an honours degree in history and ends up doing something that requires a technical skill when he or she is finished.

Perhaps I should not be saying some of these things.

Mr. T. P. Reid: If someone takes a law degree, he or she can go into politics.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course, a part of that may be predicated on the measure of success one has in the first profession he or she chooses. If one does not do as well there, then—but I do say I think there are differences. Perhaps I am saying that in a rather clumsy fashion.

Part of the history here is fairly simple. There has not been, either by parents or by society

generally, the same tradition or the same motivation to encourage as many young people to go into the rather strict or narrow technical educational field. I am not saying it is good or it is bad. I am saying I think there are differences. There are some days when I can argue both sides of the case.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The Premier can do that every day on any subject.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, some days, but not on all subjects. I say to the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) that I happen to believe it. If one were to compare the traditions here and what we have been able to achieve with what has happened in the United States, one would be making a more valid comparison. There are not too many states of the union that I am aware of, and the honourable member can correct me if I am wrong, where there is extensive, compulsory legislation related to the industrial sector being mandated or legislated into skills or manpower training. I am not too familiar with that.

5:10 p.m.

I say to the member for York South, who is a scholar of great renown—certainly his predecessors have been; they have always been able to quote to me the American academic experts—my recollection is that there are not many states with that kind of legislation. In fact, there are several states that not only do not have it but also would be unalterably opposed even to considering such a thing. There is the sovereign state of California. If one were to propose in southern California what the members are proposing here in this House, that would be heresy to some people. It may not be so much so in the northern part of the state. It certainly would be in other, southwestern states.

Mr. Rae: Until Alabama moves on it, we cannot move on it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Does Alabama have it? Is that what the member is saying? I am very careful in what I say.

I just throw the question back, not to the member but to all the members. Can we legislate that companies in the auto sector, as a matter of public responsibility, have to assume responsibility for the training or education of a percentage of their employees when they come into the organization? Would that be compatible with the United Auto Workers? I cannot answer that. I do not think anyone knows. Is it the right thing to do? Should we legislate this sort of thing? I do not have the answer. I honestly do not know.

I have reservations. If companies are legislated into doing this and they make a decision to train people in a specific field, which six months later or two years later becomes redundant, whose obligation is the retraining? Who does one blame for training somebody in a skill that maybe somebody should have known was not going to be part of our economic environment? Those decisions are not so easy to make.

I think I have made as many or more speeches as the member has, encouraging industry to assume a greater responsibility for forecasting, which to me has not been done well in terms of manpower requirements. I have expressed a concern some of them raised with me that when they get into training, pirating takes place. If company A does it, company B does not do it; then B goes in and pirates the people who have been trained. This creates a problem. I have heard all the reasons; many of them are excuses, but some are valid.

I can assure the member we share the same concerns. It may be that we do not see our way to doing it in the same fashion. I am not sure we are going to solve this problem through compulsory legislation in a way that is in the best interests of the economy and of the people who would be affected by such legislation. I am not referring to the companies; I am referring to the individuals.

Mr. Sweeney: I want to follow up on a comment the Premier made. The difficulty the Premier highlighted is that the companies currently involved in training are questioning whether they should continue to expend the funds when they see their neighbours down the street doing no training or very little training; then as soon as the young man or young woman is fully qualified, he or she is enticed away by another \$1 or \$1.50 an hour.

I can remember very clearly being down in the Windsor area roughly a year and a half ago and being told by a number of company presidents, "We have just had it, John, with spending the kind of money we do." As we all know, especially in the apprenticeship program, the first couple of years are not very financially productive for the company doing the training. At the very time it becomes financially productive, that young man or young woman is enticed away by a company that has not put a cent into training. They said, "Not only are you going to see no increase in companies training in Ontario if you do not legislate something, but also the companies doing the training right now are saying to heck with it and getting out of it and the problem is going to get worse."

A couple of the companies I spoke to in the Windsor area referred me to the levy system in Britain. They were not advocating it, but they said at least there is some sense of obligation on all industry in that country either to participate in the training process or to put something into the financial pool so those who are training are not left out on a limb.

The only point I am trying to make in the way I structured my question to the Premier is to identify what has happened in those other jurisdictions and to say that Ontario industry is not likely simply to be persuaded; something stronger is going to have to be done. I do not know whether the legislative mandate route is the way. Quite frankly, I do not know of any other.

I can tell the Premier, in response to one of the other comments he made, that several American states are now getting into arrangements with business. California happens to be one; Michigan and Pennsylvania are two others. Several American states are now entering into firmer agreements with industry to participate in the training process; much more so than, to the best of my knowledge, Ontario is. That factor has to be taken into consideration.

The difficulty here is that the number of Ontario industries participating in training processes is not increasing significantly; and those that are taking part are threatening to pull out because they simply cannot afford to do it in isolation any longer. The Premier himself indicated a couple of minutes ago that as we move more and more into the new technologies, it is going to be increasingly important that the industries on the forefront of these new technologies—technologies that are changing so rapidly—participate in the training process; it cannot be done by the institutions.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think increasingly we will find the most successful organizations that do develop and continue to grow will be those that will have in-house training programs. I think that is the history of it, and we will see more evidence of it.

However, I will get back to the point I was making. I know something of, shall we say, the increased government interest in Michigan, Pennsylvania and California. With great respect, it is not a levy system, it is not mandated; also, it has decided disadvantages.

The other point we should not kid ourselves about is that in some highly specialized, highly skilled areas, there will continue to be a real measure of mobility. I do not kid myself that we

are going to educate and train every single person who may be required.

If one goes to California and looks at the whole area around Palo Alto and Stanford University, where a lot of exciting work is going on, one will not find a native Californian there. That sort of thing does tend to happen.

It will come as an interesting fact of life to the member, because he is younger than I am, that in the early stages at Cape Kennedy and Houston, some of the very real talent had left here because of a certain decision made in our nation's capital with respect to the Avro Arrow where some of the best technical people—

Mr. Kerrio: The Premier should not have said that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen. I spoke very vigorously on this subject in March 1959, believe me; I took exception. I nearly was not—

Mr. Stokes: Old Dief never listened to the Premier either.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is right. I nearly was not here because of that decision. For our county, it was very close; it was 1,200 votes. That was rather serious in those days.

Mr. T. P. Reid: It was a smaller riding, and they knew the Premier better.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, but a few years later, things improved a little bit.

I just say one cannot close the borders to the mobility of some of these highly qualified people. I do not think that is going to change.

Going back to the point I am trying to make, I am not satisfied that a legislated route or a levy system is the best answer. I do not disagree with the other problems.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the member for Hamilton East have a question on the same subject or is it a new one?

Mr. Mackenzie: Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, but mostly it is new.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it a new one?

Mr. Mackenzie: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: Then the turn goes to a member of the second party.

Mr. Rae: No, Mr. Chairman. It follows on from my question.

The Deputy Chairman: Does it? I would not want to challenge that.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, there are three things I want to raise with the Premier and they all interconnect. One is that to some extent both he and the member for Kitchener-Wilmot have made the case for again taking a serious

look at the grant levy system in terms of training programs, because it is and will continue to be a problem.

However, I want to touch briefly on the older-worker problem and the government's response to it to date. I want to tie it in, if I can, with the argument on pensions and possibly some form of early retirement ability.

We have gone through a number of plant closures in my own town. I will not go into those in great detail, but I have been following one of them very closely; that is the Consolidated-Bathurst case. There is a need for some kind of action in terms of dealing with what happens to workers in a situation such as that.

5:20 p.m.

To me, it is pretty obvious what kind of action is needed. I had occasion to sit in the office of the Minister of Labour when we were dealing with two top officials of that company. Two things threw me for a bit of a loop, as well as everybody else in the room, including at least two ministers. One was a comment by the company officials, when we asked them specifically, that they would not consider any worker proposal to buy out that plant. The reason given—I think this is the actual case—was, "Imperial Oil would not sell a choice corner lot to Texaco, and we are not going to put up with the competition."

That is not what I always understood the private enterprise system was all about.

Even more enlightening in some ways was the response to the question we asked of this same official on whether or not they would put in a word on behalf of the workers when we found out at that meeting they were in the process of selling the plant to a company next door, Reid Dominion. The bottom seniority in that plant was 20 years' service for the remaining workers who were being laid off. The answer we got was, "We would not appreciate somebody telling us who to hire, so we do not intend to tell anybody else who to hire." That company has since closed down a London plant as well, all in the name of corporate rationalization and ability to compete in the market today. I understand that, but the losers are the workers.

We have been doing a follow-up. My figures are now about four and a half to five weeks old, so they may have changed slightly. Just before they closed down the centre that was set up on Kenilworth Avenue North with funding that was mostly federal but I believe partly provincial, where three workers were hired to do what they could for the 206 workers who were out of a job in that plant—mostly plant workers but a few

office workers—they had found employment one year after the closure for 83 of the 206 workers, and 90 per cent of them were at considerably lower wages, not that Consolidated-Bathurst's wages were the best in the world to begin with.

We also found that of the 106 remaining out of work, 23 were in retraining programs. They were all older workers, some of them as old as 59, 60 and 61. I talked to a good number of them and was in the homes of two or three, talking to them and their families. They were finding it extremely difficult to deal with retraining, and mostly it was because of their lack of education. They had spent some 30 years at that plant. They did not expect to be dumped on the labour market all of a sudden. They were trying to get an upgrading that would allow them to get into some more meaningful retraining courses. They told me they were having trouble hacking the retraining.

That pointed out to me the need for an opportunity for at least some of these workers to have some kind of bridging arrangement. There could have been early retirement, which might have taken care of a few of them. That would cost, as retraining programs cost, but there is a tremendous social and economic cost in what is happening to these people.

We were doing one thing to these people that I did not fully realize at the time—we were taking them out in the last five or 10 years of their working lives. We were not only cutting their pensions or what they might have had as pensions, but because their pensions were not the best in the world, and that applies in an awful lot of plants, they had done some saving.

Most of those workers were now in a position where they had to spend whatever they had saved before they would even qualify for any kind of assistance, not that they wanted it. We were sentencing them not only to the loss of their jobs, but also to a heck of a lot lower income if they did not find jobs for the rest of their working lives, and after that in terms of their pensionable age.

We have a real problem. It does not exist only at Consolidated-Bathurst. It exists with 500-odd International Harvester workers in Hamilton, about whom we are doing a bit of a study now, who are never going to go back to the plant. They had quite a bit of seniority because they have been cutting down for a number of years at that plant. We know in the case of SKF that we are having serious problems two and a half years after the closure of that plant with a large number of workers who have not yet found re-employment. Again, they are in the older-worker

category. It seems to me there is a serious problem that has to be given a little more attention than we are giving it. I do not doubt for a minute that it is going to be a cost.

We cannot always use the argument for some of these plants that it is straight production or inability to compete. We have plants in Hamilton such as Glendale Spinning Mills where we can even compete with Third World countries, but we are doing it by having a heck of a large part of the work force that used to be there only two short years ago now not employed. We have some responsibility somewhere along the way to pick up for those people who are not working.

As to the SKF case, one of the things that was most startling to me in the plant shutdown committee hearings we had was the evidence that came to us, some from the company—more from the union, but we had quite a session with the people from SKF—that it was a planned phaseout.

What they did in the initial stage was they took the large runs, which were the profitable runs, for small ball bearings out of that plant and moved them to another of some 70 companies that are part of that chain. They moved to replace those large assembly runs for small ball bearings with assembly runs for large ball bearings, which were much less profitable but still earned a profit, according to what the company told us in those hearings; larger runs, shorter runs, and they were never anywhere near as productive or as economic.

After a year or two on the larger runs they then moved in the ball bearing repair and assemblies and moved out both small and large assembly runs. Those were less profitable still, and by the end of the the third or fourth year they were starting to talk about the fact that the company was no longer competitive. It was not a true picture, because they had made the changes to the less profitable runs in that plant. Whether it was deliberate or not I do not know, but I do know it set up the argument after a number of years so they could say, "This company is no longer anywhere near as profitable as it should be." Once again the losers in that operation were the workers.

I also wonder why we have not taken a more serious look at the changes we discussed in this House over the last three, four or five years on pensions. Obviously this government does not believe in the public pension route or any real enrichment of it, but I thought there was pretty general agreement in this House. I also served on the select committee on pensions, which I heard the leader of the Liberal Party talk about the other

day when we started this debate. It seems to me there was agreement that we desperately needed improvements to allow for much more portability than we have now, earlier vesting and maybe some method of centrally funding the money. The proposition found fairly wide support from members on all sides of this House.

It is not a very large step from that to looking at whether it is feasible to solve some of the problems of older workers by working out some kind of early retirement proposition. But even if we do not do that, why have we not seen any positive steps in the last two, three or four years when there was quite general agreement that at least those minimum steps to improve the private pension plans should be taken to allow workers who have five or 10 years' service—and more are going to be out of work from now on—to be able to start accumulating what they have built up towards a pension? As members know, now, other than getting their money back and maybe six per cent interest, if they do not meet the age and service requirements, most of them are just up the creek, and that is happening to an awful lot of workers with the increasing number of plant shutdowns.

There is a third angle, and I really wonder why the Premier and the government have not taken a look at it. I was going to read some comments by Judy Steed in a recent article in the *Globe and Mail* dealing with high-tech and this government's commitment to it, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development investment in it, the investment in the computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing centres and the need to promote this new technology as an answer to our being competitive and being able to put our people to work.

My concern is that all the comments and everything we see indicate that this government is totally committed to trying to put into place the new technology that industry can use to keep us competitive in the marketplace and, we hope, protect jobs; I would not say "provide jobs," because in the travelling our committee has done I have not heard anything that indicates there are a heck of a lot of jobs in the so-called new-tech field.

But I do know that while we are spending money through various BILD programs to take the new technology to the shop floor and to improve the company's ability to compete—and that is a major directive—I do not see a single thing in the budget this government has brought down or in anything I am hearing from the Premier or any of the ministers that indicates we

are spending anything at all to take a serious look at what the future of work is going to be.

These are some of the things we have been raising about retraining. What are we retraining people for? Are we going to have to retrain workers, through some kind of funding arrangement, every five or six years in the future? Are the stories that we could be out a further 400,000 or 500,000 jobs over the next 10 to 12 years as a result of technology scare stories or are they legitimate? Some of the experts we talked to told us it could be higher or lower than that, and nobody could tell us; but they did say we were on the verge of changes that were certainly as great as, if not greater than, what we saw in the Industrial Revolution.

5:30 p.m.

My concern is that while we are going full speed ahead with additional assistance, funding and trying to develop and bring the new technology to the work floor, I do not see what we are doing about what it is going to mean. What is the future of work? Will the large number of jobs as we know them today in the industrial sector be gone? Is that going to change? One of the skilled trades we always thought would survive is tool and die making. That is a very highly skilled job, but it is rapidly disappearing with the ability to use new computers to draw designs perfectly, better than draughtsmen or tool and die makers could ever do it.

Where are we taking a look at what is going to happen in the future to workers in this province and this country? What will the future jobs be? I do not know if I am asking for a survey. I hate the idea of surveys. I guess that is not the word I am looking for. But where is the study? Where is the research? Where is a serious effort being made to tell us just what we should be retraining people for and what the future of work in the province is?

If we are going to grab hold of this technology and run with it—and very few of us think we can do otherwise—should we not be spending a good chunk of our effort, time, money and expertise on what we should be trying to retrain people for? Just what is the future of work? Are we going to have to look for alternative lifestyles entirely? How do we do the distribution? How do we control the new technology that is there?

Recently, I took a look at the preliminary results of a study that will be out shortly; one of the new technology papers highlighting micro-bits. It showed that almost every firm using the new technology was showing increased production and profits and decreased labour force and labour costs.

Somewhere along the way, in encouraging this development, this government is missing out on what I see as very fundamental questions. Where is it taking us? Where are we going? How are we going to make it work in terms of the social effects and the effects on workers? What have they got as a future in the province?

I do not see what the government is spending on that. If I have a real criticism at the moment, I guess it is that. We want to move full speed ahead and we do not know where it is taking us. We do not know what effect it is going to have on people and on work in this province. I think those are legitimate questions to ask the Premier in his estimates.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member has raised two or three questions. I will deal with the last one first because it is very fundamental.

I would make one point. We talk a lot about high-tech industries and technological change. I am not closing my mind to it at all, but I have to remind myself there are some industries we still want to see carrying on that may not be high tech. There are still some traditional industries that require some encouragement and recognition. They are pretty fundamental.

Technological change is going to change the agricultural industry to a certain degree, but there will still be some very basic requirements in the agricultural industry. There will be in some areas of the resource industries as well. Technological change has made a difference in the steel industry, but some things will not change.

The total percentage of jobs is going down. There is no question about it. But I hope we do not all look at high tech as being the salvation for all of us because there will be industries other than high tech.

When we talk about technological change as distinct from high-technology industries, I think there is an obligation on governments, on unions and on business to do a better job with respect to forecasting assessments or projections. I tried to make this point with the member for Kitchener-Wilmot.

With respect, it is not the sole responsibility of government. I have been very encouraged. We have set up this task force. Mr. White, who is well known to members and whose talents I regard very highly, and Mr. Boggs, have agreed to jointly chair a task force to try to assess this very matter.

It is not a question of it not being in the budget or a lack of allocation of resources. It is trying to find the best mechanisms—there may not be a

single mechanism—and the best talents to help us with this very difficult problem. It is something a lot of states of the union are trying to come to grips with. I would say it is one that should have a higher priority for all national governments.

None the less, it is a matter we are not ignoring. I think we have had some measure of success, but it is not something we can deal with by ourselves. We have taken this initiative very recently and I am encouraged by the acceptance of Mr. White and Mr. Boggs to move ahead in a joint fashion to make some of these assessments.

I know the member will not believe this, but many in the business community whom I talk to share these same concerns. They genuinely want to be co-operative and give as much help as they can. However, there are limitations on their abilities to look into that crystal ball and say with accuracy, "These are the job requirements in two years or five years." Some of them made that sort of assessment eight years ago, say in the auto sector, and they were in error. I keep reminding myself that management does make mistakes.

When dealing with some of the other concerns the member raised I will not get into and have never got into the defence of anyone in a particular organization. I will not comment. I was not part of the meeting with Consolidated-Bathurst. I find it difficult to understand why any individual, if he or she could help a company's employees get jobs with somebody else, would not do so. I am not going to comment because I was not there and I do not know the context in which that observation was made.

I can only say what I said to the member's leader with respect to early retirement and the problems that were inherent in that. It is not a lack of concern or ability on our part to explore this. The same applies to the question of pensions. The member may not feel we are giving it the priority we should. We are always open to any practical, constructive suggestions that would be helpful in this process.

I cannot comment on SKF; I am not that close to it. I remember meeting with them about a year or so ago on a matter related to the Scarborough operation, but I am not in a position to make any judgement on the question the member raised.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I am going to do something radical that I try to do in every estimate: I am going to ask the Premier about money in his estimates. Particularly, I am going to ask why there is almost a 10 per cent increase in the budget of the Office of the Premier. I hope that is not for those flags outside this august building. Incidentally, I hope the Premier will

give us his assurance today that those flags will not be there permanently. I read a comment somewhere that it made us look like a banana republic. Frankly, I find I have some sympathy for that view.

I noticed as I walked up today that the flags really obscure the pristine beauty and the setting of the Legislative Building itself. On occasion, I have noticed that not only tourists to our fair province but citizens from all over Ontario, particularly school children, who used to be out there taking pictures of the building, seem to be few in number now that the flags are there. At one point I thought there were going to be 41 flags and we were going to add one as each year went by. I am sure that has occurred to some.

While I do want to ask the Premier about the increase of \$212,700 in his office budget, I trust that is not for festooning the environs up there with the latest in Detroit Tigers trophies, banners and so on. We all know that certain people who inhabit that area are fond of those.

If I may, I just want to reminisce a little, since the Premier was recalling his days as Minister of Education. I recall a time when he and I were both considerably younger. I was considerably fatter and the Premier was not. The Premier, who was then Minister of Education—a young Billy Davis if I may put it that way, and I do not mean to imply he is now old—arrived at a place that will go nameless to participate in the graduation ceremonies there. The community had, and continues to have, a reputation as probably one of the more—“exotic” is not the word, but shall we say—

Mr. Sweeney: Different.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Not different, but they did things with a certain amount of flair and style. The auditorium was beautifully decorated; the school band was in uniform; the teachers were in their graduation gowns. It was a pretty impressive show. We had this young Minister of Education there to deliver the address to the graduates. I suppose there must have been 2,500 people or so. The Minister of Education, now the Premier, was also in his gown or gowns. As I recall, he did not have so many degrees in those days, but in those days he had earned them.

I will never forget the chairman of the school board, a dear friend of mine, rising not only to introduce the minister, but also to act as master of ceremonies. It was very impressive display. Walter Borosa could not have done it better. The cardinal would have been chagrined if he had been there and seen what that community could

do as opposed to what Walter did the night of the state dinner for the cardinal.

The then chairman of the board rose in his place and said to the hushed multitude, “I want to say a word to the graduates.” I can remember almost each and every word. “I want to tell the graduates that you not only done good, you done excellent.” The Premier, being only the Minister of Education at that time, did not rise in his spot to correct the gentleman. I am sure if the present Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) had been there, she would have leaped to her feet and done so. However, that is a reminiscence, Mr. Chairman, I am sure you will appreciate.

In any case, I wonder if the Premier could indicate why there is almost a 10 per cent increase in the appropriation for his office. I know it is radical to ask about money, but I like to do so on occasion.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, the member made some observations about his view of the excellent flags out in front of the building. I tend to disagree. When I say I tend to disagree—

Mr. T. P. Reid: I find that surprising.

Mr. Barlow: With respect.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, with respect. On the rare moments when I have occasion to look out of my office, it is a very significant change, but I think it is exciting. I happen to believe in this when one is celebrating something, a bicentennial or the constitutional patriation or July 1. I notice our American neighbours are never reluctant to have a surplus of flags.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I know how fond the Premier is of their attitudes to politics.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have certain reservations about their attitudes on some things, but I have certain domestic influences that keep me on a very moderate path, as does the member's leader, who dealt in his business days so extensively with the Young Presidents Organization of the United States. That is not political. They were business presidents, but he was very enthusiastic about their philosophical approach to economics. I remember his contributions in those days. I filed them away.

I happen to think it is an exciting year for this province. The fact that the flags are out at the front adds a dimension that pleases people. I am not so sure they should disappear. Maybe the bicentennial flag could be replaced by the individual member's house flag. We could give that some consideration. I happen to think they are pretty great. They are going to stay there for

the bicentennial year, and I know the member will reluctantly enjoy it.

I guess this is the first occasion in the number of years I have tried to pass these estimates, in these very difficult debates, that somebody has actually asked me about the estimates of the Office of the Premier or the Cabinet Office. I should point out that in the Cabinet Office, the increase is 0.8 per cent. I just wanted—

Mr. T. P. Reid: I did not ask about the Cabinet Office.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course, the member would not ask about the Cabinet Office. The increase is 0.8 per cent, so he will not ask. That does not mean I have to answer everything he does ask. I am pointing out to him that the increase in the Cabinet Office is 0.8 per cent, so he can make a note of that.

In the Office of the Premier, it is 9.9 per cent. If the member were to take averages and combine the two in terms of the responsibilities, how would it come out? I ask him to get out his slide rule and make that calculation. I have some other information with which I hope to help him. I have a note here about it because the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), who is not here, used to like to get at the figures. He would equate the Premier's office with the caucus office—that is, the Liberal caucus office—the leader's allowance, the New Democratic Party caucus office and so on.

In the Cabinet Office, we have 0.8 per cent. The Liberal Party caucus formula is an increase of 6.84 per cent; the NDP has 6.2 per cent. Even if one were to take the 9.9 per cent, add the 0.8 per cent and average them, we would still be below the 6.8 per cent or the 6.2 per cent.

In the Office of the Premier, I am very honoured to have for the first or second time round the services of an excellent member of this House who is serving as my parliamentary assistant, whose responsibilities in terms of the bicentennial have been so well looked after that it has brought great satisfaction to me and to several of the member's caucus colleagues. If one looks at the figures carefully, one will find the involvement of my very distinguished colleague in this area accounts for 7.7 per cent and the actual increase in cost in the Premier's office is 2.2 per cent.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if perhaps the Premier, in this new-found spirit of sharing information with us, would actually, perhaps not at this very moment, break down what those expenditures of roughly \$150,000 are for the bicentennial or whatever we are calling it.

At the same time, can the Premier tell us what the total cost of this year's celebrations spread across, which it sounds as if he wishes to do, all the government ministries will be? I do not know which colleagues of mine are so happy about all this, but I am sure Walter Borosa has been dancing on air ever since somebody dreamed up this one.

I asked the Premier this question some years ago. Can he provide us with the salary ranges and the number of people who are in his office and in the Cabinet Office and what the changes from the last fiscal year to this year have been?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would be delighted to try to get the latter information for the honourable member. He will not find it substantially different from a year ago. We have had one or two changes. Nothing remains constant, but with regard to the general distribution, it will be very much as it was a year ago. I will endeavour to get that information for him. I cannot get the total involvement of the province with regard to the bicentennial, however; that will not be available until roughly midnight, December 31, 1984. The party is not over until then.

The member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) says he does not know which of his colleagues is that enthusiastic about the bicentennial. One of them has just come in and is just taking his seat. If the member could have been with him when he was with me, presented me with some delightful cheese and said some very kind things—

Mr. O'Neil: The Premier has abused me a little.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not abuse the member for Quinte at all. I was very complimentary to him. I just said he was philosophically misguided and I did not recognize him in his get-up, but it was a great evening. The members should have seen the people of Trenton participating, dressed up in the garb of 1784, the sense of community spirit, led by the local member, led by the mayor and by all the citizens at that dinner.

If they had, they would have gained something of a sense of history of Trenton and the surrounding community, what it means in terms of the history of Ontario and about their commitment to the bicentennial. I was deeply moved. The member for Quinte was almost more enthusiastic than I have seen the member for Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch), but that is not quite true.

It was a great night. I want the member for Rainy River to know that he should just check with the member for Quinte, who cannot deny it. Not only can he not deny it, he would not want to.

He has become so emotionally involved in it, he wants to get up and make a speech right now in my estimates, congratulating the member for Scarborough East and the Premier on our initiatives for the bicentennial.

5:50 p.m.

Knowing that the member for Quinte wishes to do that, that there is 10 minutes left and that it takes him that long to clear his throat, I will sit down for a minute and give him the opportunity.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I note the Premier did not give us any commitment that the flags would not be permanent. I guess we will come to that when we do.

I want to talk briefly about the whole question of accountability. Over the last few months we have had a situation that I do not think anybody enjoyed on any side of the House as to a particular deputy minister. I do not wish to talk in any personal way about that situation.

Both as a member and as chairman of the standing committee on public accounts for more years than I like to think of, ministerial and civil servant responsibility and accountability have become of increasing concern to me. I was not happy with the responses of the Premier in regard to that situation. I was disturbed by the responses Mr. Gordon gave me before the public accounts committee concerning his accountability and responsibility.

I asked him how he saw the system working. He named the Premier, he named the cabinet, he named the Lieutenant Governor, he named the people of Ontario and finally he named the minister to whom he was responsible.

Obviously, this is a problem that has to exercise the Premier to some extent. I believe the government and the taxpayers are paying something like \$280,000 to Price Waterhouse to do a study of Management Board operations. The first item on the list is the whole system of accountability in Ontario.

I have become increasingly concerned about the accountability and responsibility of civil servants in Ontario. I recall the Deputy Treasurer, Mr. Campbell, coming before the public accounts committee about a year ago. He talked about the established programs financing and transfer payments vis-à-vis the federal government. I have a great deal of personal regard for Mr. Campbell. I think he is an excellent civil servant. He is obviously very competent, but he was also extremely political. I thought he strayed well over the line on that occasion.

A former Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs with whom I was at a conference was extremely

political. He was even more political than the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) could be on his best days. The Premier knows well how fine a job the Minister of Northern Affairs does in that regard.

This whole question has to vex all of us, including the taxpayers. I recall another incident. I refer the Premier to the final report of the public accounts committee of December 1980 in which, among other things, the committee had dealt with the St. Marys Clinic and the Ministry of Health. The committee, which was composed of members from all sides, including the parliamentary secretary to the then Minister of Health, stated on page 30:

"The committee is also disappointed by the apparent lack of concern with the question of value for money displayed in our hearings by the officials most directly charged with the responsibility for the program, Dr. Boyd Suttie and Mr. Ray Berry. In particular, the committee is disappointed with the quality of responses to requests for information and with the lateness of these responses, which served to hinder the committee in its work. The committee is also displeased by the lack of co-operation by the ministry with the Provincial Auditor in his comparison, at the direction of the committee, of the roster of St. Marys Clinic and the patient lists of nearby fee-for-service practices."

In trying to deal in as honest and impartial a way as I can as chairman of this committee, I find it difficult to hold the public servants accountable for the day-to-day financial operation of the province. I find it difficult when they are not brought to some kind of order and responsibility by their ministers and by the Premier.

We all know what goes on. There have been occasions both in this House and at the federal level. There is an interesting comment from *The Economist* of February 1984 in Britain about ministerial responsibility and how that whole concept has gone out the door and how it depends on what the prime minister of the day wants to do with the cabinet ministers.

It seems to me that if we are going to discharge our duties with respect to holding people accountable and responsible for the resources they are given on behalf of the people and the taxpayers of the province, we have to be a little more acute in how we deal with these things. I do not want to go on at great length, but I wonder if the Premier could share with the House this afternoon how he sees this whole system operating and how he sees the chain of accountability working in the government of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is a rather tall order in the few moments that are left, but I will make one or two general observations.

Mr. Rae: We will let the Premier go past six o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have been known to go past six o'clock. Perhaps the member has nothing else to do tonight. Is he not going to the Pearson Cup?

Mr. Rae: My staff goofed and booked me into another thing. I cannot go.

Hon. Mr. Davis: My staff did not goof and I am going to another thing. Getting back to accountability, I never blame my staff. I assume responsibility for the problems that confront me.

With respect to this whole question of ministerial accountability and the accountability of the Premier, the first minister under our system, I sense the member feels we should be putting greater emphasis on ministerial responsibility and accountability. I like to think we have done that. I hope he uses the same logic and the same persuasive arguments with the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) when he debates the Privacy and Access to Information Act. There are certain parallels.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I do not agree with the old theory of ministerial responsibility. It does not work.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know, but if the member does not agree with ministerial responsibility, it makes the discussion a shade more difficult. Can I make one or two observations?

I do not pretend to be a student of government, but I know what goes on in other governments in the rest of this country. In terms of the management capacity, leaving aside all partisan instincts for the moment, this government is well administered in terms of how decisions are made. I do not mean broad policy matters but actual decisions that are made on a day-to-day basis and the accountability for those decisions.

All the member has to do is look at the size of the operation of this government on a comparative basis with any state of the union and look at our Provincial Auditor's report year after year. While his responsibility as chairman is to take some of those matters in the report and criticize them, usually constructively, he would acknowledge quietly to anyone that on balance the Provincial Auditor year after year has said very simply, "The affairs of this province are well managed."

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is not the point.

Hon. Mr. Davis: When we get around to the point, the point is that we have commissioned a

study. Why? The member might relate it to a particular instance that became, to be very honest about it, political. It almost became partisan. I listen to some of the discussions in the House here, and if we say it did not become partisan in nature, we are fooling ourselves.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I am not arguing that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: So we get around to what is accountability. I have to say to the member, from my experience, no Manual of Administration per se is going to cover every single situation. As I assess accountability here, I assume responsibility for deputy ministers. They are appointed by the Premier. That has been the tradition and the practice ever since I have been around. If there is a problem, ultimately it is my responsibility to deal with it.

However, I want to make this abundantly clear. In my years as Premier of this province and before that as a minister of the crown for some nine years, I think we have had—and I cannot help but emphasize this—extremely able, honest deputy ministers functioning in the public service in this province. They have been first class.

There have been personality conflicts on occasion or situations where the chemistry has not worked. In human affairs, this will always happen. However, with regard to their integrity, capacity and trying to administer their ministries to the best of their abilities, they have been first class and are first-class people.

Where is the problem in accountability? To what sort of accountability is the member referring? Is he referring to judgements which may be political in nature? Is he referring to accountability where the Manual of Administration has not been followed? Is he talking about accountability in terms of the straight financial aspect or in terms of the political sense?

I happen to think we have accountability. What we are looking at and where some improvements might be made is in the role of Management Board vis-à-vis the relationship with the other ministries in seeing that the Management Board decisions are carried out by the individual ministries.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The Premier said deputy ministers are responsible to him or he has to deal with them. In the first instance, are they responsible to the minister?

The Deputy Chairman: Are we going to proceed to a vote after this question? Otherwise, I am going to have to—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes. No two individuals' management styles will be the same. If the

member is asking me with regard to the practice and the tradition, I say very simply to my ministers that they run the ministry. They are the ones who are responsible and the deputies do what they are asked to do by their ministers. If there is a problem, then I have to deal with it because the deputies are my appointments.

Mr. J. A. Reed: That is not what the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor) said because he was mugged in the corridors of power.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, I think the member will find that is the case. This is how the system works.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable members.

Mr. Stokes: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: The government House leader came over and asked if there could be general agreement that we would carry all the votes in these estimates, even though there are 21 minutes left. We agreed to do that, and one would have assumed there might have been a sharing of the two minutes that were left.

This was not possible. I asked the Premier to answer a very important question when these estimates were last here. He did not do it. Perhaps he could write me a letter, answering that very important question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am sorry. I would be delighted to. In fact, I may not write a letter; I may discuss it with the member or have the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) discuss it with him. The matter he refers to is the regulation—and I did not understand this totally when he asked the question—which relates to the Ontario Provincial Police and whether law enforcement officers should be serving on certain public boards, whether municipal councils or school boards, and the question of the potential for conflict that might result as a result of their law enforcement capacities and the discharge of their duties as trustees or members of a municipal council. We are taking a look at it. I will communicate with the member for Lake Nipigon.

Votes 201 and 301 agreed to.

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The House recessed at 6:03 p.m.

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Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)



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Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 24, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Spensieri moved second reading of Bill 53, An Act to amend the Planning Act, 1983.

Mr. Speaker: I remind the honourable member that he has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation. He may reserve any portion of that time for his windup.

Mr. Spensieri: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to begin my discussion on second reading of Bill 53 and I wish to state the perspective from which I present this bill.

I represent roughly the west portion of the city of North York, and more than 70 per cent of my constituents live in rental accommodation. Included in this number are numerous Ontario Housing Corp. projects. These are projects which this government, prior to my coming here, chose to build without much attention to recreational facilities that are necessary to ensure the health and welfare of its inhabitants. As a result, many of my constituents struggle daily in a poorly designed environment.

My riding also happens to contain the apartment complex known as University City. This community, along with 1,480 rental homes, constituted approximately 14 per cent of the 11,000 former Cadillac Fairview units. The sale of those units some 18 months ago rocked the soul of our community and seriously eroded the integrity of this government.

While being in regular contact with my constituents during that process, several very troublesome perceptions formed in my mind. The most important reaction experienced in my community is that the need for security of tenure in residential accommodation has become of paramount importance.

At the same time, the vacancy rates across this province remain at dismal levels, and neither the provincial government nor the federal government is taking sufficient measures to tackle the problem effectively. It is clear that both senior levels of government must take a double-pronged approach to achieving security of tenure so that tenants will be able to rest easy with the

knowledge that their homes will remain standing and affordable.

The first prong—and it is not one that I wish to dwell on unduly tonight—entails the creation of new, affordable units. We know, and it has been stated many times in this House, that approximately 8,000 families and 6,000 senior citizens are on OHC waiting lists; yet the Ontario government abandoned its commitment to the construction of new public housing in 1976.

Given this dramatic and undeniable failure to come on stream with new rental units, the second prong of my argument, that of preserving and ensuring the continuance of affordable housing, remains the most important part of our battle for affordable accommodation. I propose to the members of this House that the vehicle through which this can be achieved is the legislation before us now, Bill 53.

In essence, my bill would give each municipal council in Ontario the power to prevent the demolition of our older, high-quality rental housing stock. The power is a discretionary one so that each application could be considered on its own merits.

Mr. Wildman: Where have I heard this before?

Mr. Spensieri: As many members will know, my bill contains many aspects that have been raised before by members of the third party, most recently in the legislation requested by the city of Toronto in 1982.

Mr. Kerrio: To give it credibility, we have to take the ball and run with it.

Mr. Spensieri: That is correct.

Others will extol the merits and virtues of their own legislation, but I am here to talk about my own proposal, which I believe is more sensible and has a more universal application.

The minister would have us believe that in the end the city of Toronto got what it was asking for, but nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is that the bill presented by the member for St. George (Ms. Fish) in this House, and later somehow adopted by the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko), had this Legislature see fit simply to grant a delay but not an outright prohibition against demolition.

Toronto city council was wrestled to the ground by the province, and its only choices were to accept a 12-month delay or completely abandon the critical needs of hundreds of tenants.

I would be remiss if I did not pause here to remind members about the Thom commission, which was set up by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) during the panic stemming from the great apartment sale. On November 16, 1982, the minister announced that Stuart Thom would examine the weaknesses of our laws and come up with comprehensive legislation.

It is my submission that there can be no comprehensive legislation regarding tenants until such time as we have addressed the question of demolition through such means as Bill 53. Demolition is just one further aspect of rent control and one further aspect of providing tenants the required measure of security.

Needless to say, the government has done virtually nothing with the Thom report. It will be some two years behind schedule, and I am sceptical as to whether its recommendations will even be favourably disposed towards tenants. In the meantime, tenants across the great city of North York, the city of Toronto, Etobicoke and elsewhere in our great urban centres live in fear and uncertainty.

8:10 p.m.

The New Democratic Party approach to the demolition problem, as was stated earlier, has been quite consistent with the government position in a sense. The NDP alderman in my city who suggested that there should be demolition control legislation suggested as recently as last March that North York council should be given merely the power to withhold demolition until building permits are granted.

In other words, what is sought is the ability to prevent demolition if it is intended to leave a vacant lot. Of course, that is not the issue, because in most instances a building permit is available and some alternative form of construction or improvement is going to take place. What is sought here is the ability to cancel and prohibit, on a more or less permanent basis, demolition that is intended to erode the affordable housing base.

The control that was suggested by the North York alderman, who shall remain nameless except for the fact that he has vague aspirations to succeed me in this House, obviously has not worked in North York and it is not going to work.

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Let us hear his name. Tell us who the next member for your riding will be.

Mr. Spensieri: The members may well yell that this is why the bill is being introduced, but I can say without equivocation that the bill is only a culmination of a concern on the part of the citizens in our residential areas that has been demonstrated over a period of time sufficient to dispel all innuendoes of that kind.

The problem has not been limited to North York or Toronto. More than 50 per cent of two-parent families in Ottawa under the age of 35 reside in rental homes. Since 1978, 40 per cent of the affordable housing stock and rooming houses in that community have left the market. One project alone in Ottawa, containing 488 units, has recently seen the granting of a demolition permit that will virtually wipe out an existing established residential community in that area.

It is with great pleasure that I inform those present today that we received a telephone call late this afternoon from the Association of Centretown Tenants of Ottawa, supported by a telegram, expressing their unequivocal support of Bill 53 and asking that their endorsement be relayed to this Legislature.

Members on the government side will say, of course, that each city can come forward and request its specific piece of legislation intended to give those summary and temporary reliefs that have been given to Toronto. Any sensible approach in this House would involve the approach of proceeding through a piece of general legislation of universal application to solve the problem across Ontario once and for all.

I remind members that this bill gives each local council the discretionary power to stop certain demolitions. It is therefore consistent with the principle of local autonomy and local democracy, which this party has always espoused. To proceed in a piecemeal fashion if, as and when requested by sometimes less than enlightened local councils is to put the tenants of this province in a secondary position.

Mr. Robinson: Tell us which are those less than enlightened local councils. Let us hear some names.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Spensieri: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve some time for rebuttal, for I am sure much will be needed. But I would like to share the wisdom of the late James Bryant Conant, a former president of Harvard University and ambassador to West Germany.

In an address to Harvard University, Mr. Conant stated: "Liberty, like charity, must begin at home. If one does not feel free and confident in

one's own home, then society itself is not free." Whether that home is rented or owned is, and I submit must remain, an irrelevant consideration.

John Dryden, who was described by Dr. Samuel Johnson as the father of English criticism and who is considered to be the greatest English poet of the late 17th century, wrote: "My lodging, as long as I pay the rent, is my castle."

I ask the members of this Legislature to enshrine that principle, and that can only be done through the favourable reception of this bill. I would also suggest that members' specific concerns about the generality or the application of the bill could be very adroitly addressed before the appropriate committee.

Therefore, I urge the government and my friends in the New Democratic Party caucus to endorse the bill so tenants will know that all of us here are working to see their homes may be preserved.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join the debate and to make some remarks about the bill.

I have here a copy of An Act to amend the Planning Act. It is dated April 13, 1982, and was submitted by my colleague the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip). It is identical in every respect to the bill introduced here tonight by the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri). It does exactly the same things. It is an amendment to the equivalent section of the old Planning Act and does exactly what the member for Yorkview is proposing once again tonight be done.

We will support the bill since it was obviously stolen by the member for Yorkview from the member for Etobicoke. We are happy. Plagiarism in the political arena is the sincerest form of flattery. I do not mean this in an unparliamentary sense. We are flattered that the member for Yorkview has seen fit to steal another idea from the New Democratic Party. I mean that only in the kindest way, of course.

There is one substantial difference.

Mr. Elston: It is not the same in every respect?

Mr. McClellan: No, it is not; it is slightly watered down, as we would expect from the Liberal Party. When its members get a good idea, they cannot let well enough alone; they have to water it down.

The member for Yorkview has put in the loophole of an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board. This may or may not be a problem; I do not know. In the absence of anything in Bill 53 setting out criteria for the exercise of a council's power, I suspect it may well be that the OMB will

uphold appeals by owners against a municipality's exercise of its power.

I am not quite sure why the member for Yorkview has put in that section about the appeal to the board. Perhaps he will explain that to us when he comes to his windup.

The member was correct when he said demolition control is an essential measure if we are ever going to firmly establish security of tenure for tenants in Ontario. The phenomenon of demolition is a form of assault on security of tenure. It is a form of eviction, of economic eviction. None of the changes we have made in landlord-tenant laws in the last 10 years has dealt with the issue of economic eviction. In other words, landlords in Ontario are still perfectly free to throw tenants out of affordable rental units.

Mr. Kerrio: They can bang the rent up 99 per cent.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: They can bang the rent up 99 per cent and throw the tenants out. There is no legal protection against demolition or conversion of apartments from affordable accommodation to luxury or high-priced accommodation. Virtually all the demolition that takes place in Ontario is done to turn low-priced rental units into high-priced rental units, to create luxury units where affordable rental accommodation once stood.

Material presented by the city of Toronto in its numerous pilgrimages to Queen's Park to plead for demolition control told us that in the city alone at the present time there are 1,448 units for which owners have applied to obtain demolition permits. The owners intend to convert virtually all 1,448 units on the hit list into luxury accommodation. That list consists of some 50 separate apartment buildings in the city of Toronto alone. This phenomenon is taking place all over the province.

Tenants in all our major urban centres, and in many small communities as well, have found that all the changes enacted since 1975 in landlord-tenant law and in rent review legislation are utterly meaningless in terms of their own security against this kind of economic eviction. Yet this government continues to put its head firmly in the sand and pretend there is no problem.

In the city of Toronto this year, more affordable housing units will be torn down through demolition than will be built under all the social housing programs for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 together. We are tearing down more affordable housing through the uncontrolled issuance of demolition permits than government agencies are building to house low-income

families, senior citizens or single people. It is an appalling situation and one this government simply must confront.

It remains a mystery to me how the government can continue year after year to refuse to allow municipalities to exercise control over demolitions on the grounds that it is unwilling to interfere in the property rights of landlords. This was the excuse given by the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg), the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), that meaningful demolition control was an unwarranted interference in the property rights of landlords.

What about tenants? Do tenants not have the right to secure enjoyment of their own homes? Do tenants not have the right to protection from this kind of economic eviction? Simply because a man owns an apartment building, does that give him the right to throw people out of their homes? Obviously it does, in the view of this government.

Obviously nothing in the legislation that has been passed so far indicates this government has any understanding that the right of tenants to remain in their own homes supersedes the traditional property rights of people who are renting property. That element of law, which is feudal in origin, cries out in the middle of the 20th century for the same kinds of reforms enacted by this Legislature in the mid-1970s in other aspects of the landlord-tenant relationship.

The member for Yorkview indicated that security of tenure and protection of this kind requires more than simple demolition control, and he is correct. His bill deals with simply one aspect of the economic threat against tenants. I have introduced my own private member's legislation, Bill 78, An Act to Extend Security of Tenure for Tenants, which will be debated later in this session. It approaches the same issue from a slightly different perspective and in a much broader context. My bill deals with exactly the same set of concerns, but it deals with the issue in a different way.

It is not sufficient simply to control demolition; we must also be able to control conversion from affordable housing accommodation to luxury accommodation, which does not always involve demolition. We have to be in a position to end all the exemptions and loopholes in the present Landlord and Tenant Act and in the rent review legislation, including the \$750 per month luxury exemption and the exemption for buildings constructed since 1976. We have to tighten up rent review so that all the pass-throughs that

are allowed, which permit landlords to squeeze their tenants out on economic grounds, are closed.

Until we do that, tenants in this province will not have security of tenure. They will be vulnerable to any landlord who chooses to exercise his or her traditional property rights which, despite the passage of the Landlord and Tenant Act and the Residential Tenancies Act, are still as feudal in 1984 as they were in 1484.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I doubt it will come as much of a surprise to you that the views on this issue held on this side of the House are at more than small divergence from those held on the other side of the House.

Mr. Epp: Is the member speaking for himself or for his caucus?

Mr. Robinson: My friend from Waterloo North would engage us in early conversation that would erode the clock. I am not prepared to respond to his comments at this time.

Let me make two or three opening comments as a result not only of the bill offered but also, more curiously, of the remarks offered by our mutual colleague from the riding of Yorkview. I listened with great interest to his comments on the bill itself and, more specifically, on the intent of that bill. As somebody who came from a local council, as many of us in this House did, I challenge him, as I already did by interjection, to cite for me the councils in this province he considers under the Municipal Act to be less enlightened than some others.

As I recollect, he has seven or more minutes to wrap up his remarks on this bill. I hope he will take the opportunity at that point to tell us, especially my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, exactly which councils in this province he considers are more or less enlightened than others and for whom this legislation would be particularly necessary.

I note with some interest, since he represents a riding in a municipality adjoining mine, how he relates the issue of demolition to the particular issues I understand. I understand when the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) speaks about the kind of rental accommodation we are talking about. I understand the kind of units that are at issue here. While my friend from Bellwoods and I may not agree implicitly on the very best handling of the issue and of those units, I think he would allow that at least I understand what type of units we are talking about.

I have some difficulty with the member for Yorkview, however—and I have no disagreement that he has a high consistency of rental accommo-

dation in his riding—when he gets up in this House and compares the type of rental accommodation he has in his riding to the issue presented before us by Bill Pr3 and Bill 53. I have some difficulty reconciling those very large differences.

I would like to take us back to the issue at hand, which is a private bill request from the city of Toronto seeking certain exemptions from the Planning Act to provide a measure of control in the overall planning process by way of demolition control. I would also take the member for Yorkview back to remind him, as he did cite, that in 1982 there was a request from that municipality to provide a blanket demolition control, a complete abrogation of the rights of private land owners.

8:30 p.m.

I am not going to be foolish enough or cavalier enough to stand in my place tonight and say there should be completely unlimited control of the rights of land owners. There is not now. There is already considerable planning and, as a by-product of that, zoning controls over every land owner in this province. To stand up and say those controls are completely insufficient, completely without checks, and therefore there needs to be an ultimate act which, at the whim of a council, whether enlightened or not, or by what measure of enlightenment, will prevent demolition *carte blanche* under every circumstance, is hardly a reasonable request.

I have to also say, with regard to the ultimate Bill Pr3 that was considered by the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments some two or three weeks ago, that in conversation with the city of Toronto, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and a variety of members on both sides of this House, it was well recognized that type of blanket demolition was not only inappropriate to the city of Toronto but was inappropriate to the entire planning process in this province.

As a result of that very clear perception on both sides, certain negotiations were entered into. Certain results came of that and members across the floor were supportive of it, albeit reluctantly. I remind the members there was agreement on both second and third readings of this bill in this House two weeks ago that complete demolition control was inappropriate. The city of Toronto, which sought that private bill, also realized it was inappropriate. There was unanimous support for a one-year delay—

Mr. Kerrio: They were railroaded into that and the member knows it.

Mr. Robinson: We will hear from across the way later. I will say to the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) that I stood in my place on that day and the record will show I admitted that, with reluctance, both parties across the way supported that bill. I will not change that position tonight. It was agreed that the most practical way to proceed was with a 365-day moratorium on demolition, as requested by the city of Toronto in its bill presented before that committee. That is what it was prepared to accept.

The issue here is not whether there should be blanket demolition. It is not, I also suggest in the context of Bill 53, whether or not there should be some back-door approach by which demolition control can be achieved.

I would draw the members' attention in the remaining few minutes to clause 33a.(2)(c) of the bill which says in effect, yes, one can be exempted under the conditions of this bill from demolition providing one will not build more than 50 per cent of the already allowable and legal density of the property permitted under the municipal planning regulations that come into force in this way.

If there was ever a back-door approach, this is it. I say to the member for Yorkview, if he does not want them to build then come out and make it 10 per cent, make it five per cent, but do not try to kid around and say it is only half of what they are allowed to build. Do not say that if they will build less than half, we will not exempt them from demolition. That is a cowardly approach. It is a very backhanded approach indeed.

Interjections.

Mr. Epp: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson) must have got out of bed on the wrong side this morning.

Mr. Robinson: The issue here, I submit with respect, is affordable accommodation. During that committee hearing, I advanced a theory on behalf of demolition control that said to the representatives of developers, "Are you prepared to give a commitment in exchange that if you are going to tear down these affordable housing units at 10 units to the acre, or whatever the existing density may be, you will replace them—not in kind, because one cannot replace in kind, but considering the quality in what is being replaced—at an equitable density with the type of housing accommodation that might still well afford, in a 1984 economy, additional affordable housing but at a somewhat realistically different price for those people?"

I submit to the members that the development industry was not opposed to that concept. I also

have to say there was no support for that idea from my friends from across the floor. I have great difficulty trying to understand why we should save—I do not dispute the number offered by the member for Bellwoods; if he says 1,448 units here are to be sacrificed, I do not dispute that, but I say a pyramid theory also comes into effect.

If people move from a less expensive form of accommodation to a slightly more expensive one, there is a pyramid and at the bottom there continues to be room. Perhaps it is not the room as we know it now, perhaps not that exact type of accommodation, perhaps not that exact dollar value, but more affordable accommodation. Surely Bill 53 makes no provision for more of that and does not accommodate that issue.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and speak to the private member's bill my colleague the member for Yorkview has put forward. I commend him on grappling with an issue that has plagued the city and this metropolitan area for some years. Although it is particularly relevant to Metropolitan Toronto and the city of Toronto, it is also relevant to other parts of Ontario.

As my colleague has indicated, at the committee meeting only a few weeks ago the city of Ottawa indicated interest in a bill similar to that put forward by the city of Toronto. As the members to my left, philosophically and physically, have indicated, they have not grappled with the issue in the way the member for Yorkview has and now they are expressing their jealousy through harassing the member for Waterloo North. I can deal with that.

The question of why this bill is before us has to be raised. It is before us for two basic reasons. One is that we have in Ontario a tremendous lack of affordable rental units, verging on almost the impossibility of people getting rental units. The vacancy rate is around one or two per cent, which makes it almost impossible for people to get affordable rental units.

The other reason is that the government should have recognized that people are not able to get the units and that landlords and developers are buying these units and tearing them down in order to build luxury units and other forms of accommodation. It should have taken the reins and tried to prevent this from happening.

Rather than supporting the city of Toronto in its request for a two-year prohibition on destroying these affordable apartment units, the government harassed the city for a number of years and delayed any methods the city wanted to employ.

Finally, the city of Toronto saw no end to this harassment unless it gave in; it acceded to the one-year postponement.

Mr. Robinson: The honourable member does not believe that; he knows better than that.

Mr. Epp: I know that for a fact.

Finally, the city of Toronto said, "It is better to take half a loaf than none at all." It agreed to a one-year postponement on demolition rather than demolition control.

Therefore, I commend my colleague the member for Yorkview for coming forth and saying, "We need local autonomy." We do not have in the municipalities what the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere calls "the whim of the council." Having been on municipal council for 10 years, I am very proud of having been one of those hundreds of councillors who represent their municipalities, whether it is the city of Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto, the city of Ottawa; it could even be Scarborough or a small municipality such as Wellesley township.

Irrespective of that, wherever it might be, they are honourable people and they try to do a good job for the people who elected them. Keeping that in mind, I do not think we should refer to the whim of council. That certainly does not shed light on the responsibility those councillors carry.

8:40 p.m.

I suggest what we need is the bill which is being proposed by my colleague. I know this has been raised in the Legislature before, but I want to reiterate a problem that arose. Perhaps someone from the government side of the House can shed some light on this today because we have not had any light on this aspect in the past month or so.

Part of this legislation was due to the problem that arose with 790, 800 and 840 Eglinton Avenue West. That has come before the courts and there has been an appeal and so forth launched with respect to that issue.

One of the interesting aspects was that an affidavit was filed by the developer of this piece of property, the person who wanted to destroy those units, which indicated he was going to buy some kind of control with the provincial cabinet and he was setting aside half a million dollars to persuade the cabinet to get the kind of demolition he wanted for those buildings.

I wish someone on the government side of the House could address this subject today because I think it is important for the subject that has come up. I want to go briefly through some of the history the city of Toronto had to go through to

get its limited control for the postponement of demolition of buildings.

Going back to 1980, city council passed a bylaw to limit the depth of a new apartment building to 17 metres from the minimum front lot line setback of a lot. There was an Ontario Municipal Board hearing on this. The board reserved its decision and granted an exemption for the properties on Bathurst Street. Eventually, the units—

Mr. Shymko: What does that have to do—

Mr. Epp: I am referring to some of the important aspects the city of Toronto had to deal with. A little later they asked for some special legislation that was introduced by the member for St. George who is now a minister of the crown. That bill received first reading in March 1982. It was sent to committee where it was strangled by the government. It never received the kind of support it should have received.

The member for St. George eventually became a member of the cabinet. Then the member for High Park-Swansea introduced his bill, which received—

Mr. Shymko: It was an excellent bill. Thank you for your support.

Mr. Epp: I am glad the member for High Park-Swansea raised that. The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere mentioned that. We supported that bill reluctantly. I remind the members of the Legislature that we introduced an amendment to give the local council an option to extend it for another year. The members opposite, having got their marching orders from above, decided to vote against it.

I remember the whip hovering around the area to make sure they had all the right bodies out—

Mr. Robinson: He would love to hear from you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Epp: I notice the whip is not here because he has another member he is trying to whip into shape, a member who only appeared here for a short time this afternoon.

Mr. Shymko: You were just trying to sabotage an excellent bill; no sensitivity at all.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Epp: I want to remind the House that the bill of the member for Yorkview is a very good bill. I hope the government side of the House does not decide to block the bill. It gives local councils a certain amount of autonomy. It is a

general bill which is province-wide. Rather than dealing with one municipality out of 835, it—

Mr. Robinson: Tell it to him to his face.

Mr. Epp: I will tell him right away. I am glad the member is here. Where is the other member? He was whipping him into shape and he has failed. He came back by himself.

The Acting Speaker: The member's time has expired. He is being provoked and he is provoking.

Mr. Breugh: Mr. Speaker, I might suggest the short title of this act could be called the J. Earl McEwen memorial act, because it deals with demolition. We have just seen a bit of demolition of the Liberal Party. It is premature. It usually does not happen until part-way through an election campaign.

However, I am pleased to see the member for Yorkview has decided to support some rights for some tenants. I notice he has not always taken a position in support of tenants; and I notice some tenants, particularly tenants of group homes, are not included in this bill because they would not fall into the category of six units or more. Perhaps we might hear in his closing remarks what he has to say about tenants of group homes and whether they, too, are worthy of his support to have the right to a place to live. I think that would be an interesting addition.

This would not be my first preference as a way to proceed. If we were a municipal council, we would probably be sitting around tonight saying we cannot deal with providing tenants with the right to a place to live, security of tenure. That is beyond our jurisdiction. One of the things we might be able to do is have some kind of permission for demolition control.

If we were a municipal council anywhere in Ontario, we would be aware that one of the biggest problems municipalities face these days is in addressing themselves to housing. They do not have the luxury the province has of ignoring housing altogether. They have to look around in their community and see that about as fast as they are attempting to attract new development of affordable housing, more affordable housing is being torn down than is being constructed.

The scale might be quite different, and it certainly is more noticeable here in the city of Toronto. We should be mindful that Ontario consists of more than the city of Toronto. The same phenomenon on a different scale is happening in every major urban centre. It is also happening in smaller urban centres and even in some of our smaller towns, where smaller units are being taken off the marketplace. They are not

used any more or are torn down and used for different purposes. Sometimes they are converted to what members have alluded to as being upper-class accommodation for the wealthy.

That is not always the case. Very often housing stock is demolished and the land is put back on the market for commercial purposes or for some other purpose. In many of our communities, old neighbourhoods which provide reasonable and sometimes even cheap housing for people at lower-income levels are disappearing because people who own the land want to make more money.

Normally, a provincial government would be somewhat sensitive to this problem and would be very active in working to provide a new supply of relatively reasonable rental accommodation. The unfortunate truth is this government decided about five years ago it was going out of the housing business. It did not want to participate in that any more so it turned to people at the municipal level and said they must deal with it because it was their problem, and it turned to people at the federal level and asked why they did not do something about it. That very trendy, fashionable aspect of providing housing for people in Ontario is no longer done by the Ontario government.

There are one or two exceptions. It still likes old people, so it participates a bit in seniors' housing. But single mothers are *persona non grata* with this government. It has not done a thing to provide accommodation for them in about a decade. People at the lower-income level also seem to be *persona non grata* with this government. It does not see their housing needs as being valid at all.

8:50 p.m.

There is a difficulty with this particular approach. Though I would be the first to say that at a municipal level they cannot pass legislation which says that landlords cannot kick people out on the street, they have to deal with somewhat more pragmatic matters about whether they will issue a building permit or whether they will attempt to get some kind of demolition control approved for use in their community. The difficulty is that this does not exactly provide a house for anybody. What it does is stop somebody from tearing something down.

As the member for Bellwoods mentioned previously, a more positive way to approach this is to try to see if we could work out a technique whereby province-wide we could address ourselves as a provincial Legislature to this matter, which is increasingly serious, of providing

people with some security in the place where they live even though they do not actually own the property.

I think the harsh fact to which we have to address ourselves at some point is that in my municipality, for example, where young families used to come and buy what are known as single-family houses, virtually none of my young working families could afford to buy the houses built in Oshawa now. I just looked at statistics yesterday that tell me that about 80 per cent of the new housing starts in Durham region begin at a price around \$80,000. Most of my young families and most of my older families or singles could not qualify for mortgages for that kind of house.

There have been some funny forces at work in the marketplace, a lot of them having to do mainly, developers tell me, with interest rates and with an uncertainty about how much return they can make on their dollar. One of the things we should recognize as legislators is that it is not the development industry's responsibility to provide housing for people; they are in business to make a buck, like every other businessman. When they can make that buck and provide somebody with a reasonable place to live, they are prepared to do it. But if they can make a larger buck by selling to someone else with a higher income, they are going to do so, and that is a natural choice for them. They are not in business to provide social housing; they are in business to make money. It is as simple as that.

Although the member for Yorkview very clearly simply plagiarized the bill that had been introduced by the member for Etobicoke, which does address itself to part of the problem, it would have been nice this evening, having gone through that exercise on previous occasions, if we could have addressed ourselves to the real issue, which people on the municipal council of Hamilton mentioned in some of their discussions last year.

A more positive thing would be simply to say that tenants have a right to have a place to live—it is as simple and as straightforward as that—and then perhaps to say that landlords have rights, too, and let us put these competing rights to work and put them on equal footing. This is an approach that some of our municipalities have taken. They have taken it, I think quite frankly, because they have no other choice; this is about all they can attempt to do. It is a measure that addresses itself to a municipal council deciding whether it will issue a building permit or whether

it will be able to issue a demolition permit. It addresses that part of the problem.

In the long run I think there are better ways to go about this, more positive ways to state what the problem is. The difficulty, of course, is that in many of our municipalities, particularly in smaller municipalities, this is not really going to begin to address the problem that is there.

For example, in a little place such as Cobourg, last year there was a young single mother who could not find a place to live, so she set up a tent outside the town hall. A demolition control bylaw is not going to do that woman much good, is it? It is not going to provide her with any accommodation; it will not put a roof over her head or over her child's head. In that sense, it misses the target by a great deal.

In some of our other situations, a demolition control bylaw, or provincial legislation that would allow a demolition control bylaw, would address itself very nicely to part of the problem. But there is a larger problem out there that is growing, that gets bigger every day in many parts of Ontario, and that is that no one—not this provincial government, not the municipalities for the most part, because they cannot afford to, and not the federal government—is addressing what I would call social housing or reasonable rental accommodation.

That whole area has been neglected now for about a decade, and no one has really gone at that problem, perhaps because our early experiences with it were not very positive, perhaps because we ran into some problems with it, perhaps because our early designs were not quite what they might have been.

It would be wrong to say, as the member for Yorkview did in his opening remarks, that this is all the business of councillors who do not know what they are doing, who are not enlightened, whatever that means. That is a bad shake. When municipalities ask for demolition control bylaws, it is because it is about the only thing they can do. That is the one positive step they see within their jurisdiction, and they have asked for it.

I will support this bill because I believe that every little bit of born-again mentality that happens around here ought to be supported. We all ought to be pleased that the member for Yorkview believes some tenants should have some rights. It is unfortunate he took some cheap shots at members of councils across Ontario, mostly by not naming them when they are not here to defend themselves and participate in the debate. I wish he had not dragged it down to that level.

He could also have had the good grace to acknowledge he stole his private member's bill from another private member. That would have been a step in the right direction. However feeble the step, I will support him in his endeavour and hope his education in the subject of tenant rights continues.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to speak on this topic.

To follow up on the member's comments about stealing another private member's bill, in a manner I cannot understand: an excellent bill that was passed recently, Bill Pr3, the demolition controls bill, was supported by the members opposite, supported because of the sensitivity, humaneness and concern on this side of the House in regard to the unfortunate circumstances of tenants who are faced with the demolition of their homes.

Like the presenter of this bill and other speakers, I have in my constituency a fair number of buildings that have six or more dwelling units. It is these buildings that would be affected by this bill. While the bill and the notes to it do not indicate it, what is at issue is the continued availability of affordable housing units. On a number of occasions we have heard of so-called luxury apartment buildings and condominiums replacing existing buildings where rents were much lower. We have heard these stories in this chamber and in committee from local politicians and through the local media.

We know these events take place. The main question is how we should respond to them. The member for Yorkview obviously feels his amendment to the Planning Act is the best way to proceed. With respect, I disagree with him on this fundamental point.

There are two basic and major points I would like to make in participating in this debate. First, we should remember how important and sensitive the Planning Act is. The debate leading to our current act began as far back as 1975 when the then Minister of Housing appointed the Planning Act review committee. Any major change, such as is being proposed here tonight, would require a considerable number of public hearings and a considerable amount of time and the end result would still be quite predictable.

Some members will recall that the last review of the Planning Act began when many larger municipalities had developed their own local planning capabilities. The province's role at the time was becoming more and more one of ensuring provincial interests. Local debates at the municipal level were largely between growth

and nongrowth factors, between the so-called pro-development and anti-development forces. As a Liberal mayor of this great city of Toronto pointed out, there was a pro-development shift sensitive to tenants. Certainly, this debate was very real for almost a decade in this city.

9 p.m.

While the Planning Act review committee did propose changes, it recognized that these changes should not make the system more complicated, nor should the changes interfere with established public and private interests.

This is exactly what this bill is doing. It would give the municipalities of Ontario control over the private property of certain individuals but not others, dependent on what could be entirely a political decision. For example, even if a property owner had a building permit to construct a dwelling that met every single municipal policy and bylaw, a council could decide not to let that person proceed. At the same time, another person with an identical proposal might be allowed to build by the same council.

This bill might seem like an easy, quick-fix solution, but it is just not fair. It is basically and fundamentally unfair. If we are going to address the problem of shortages of affordable housing in some municipalities, we must find a better solution.

The idea behind this bill is not even new. It was proposed and rejected when we debated the Planning Act. I believe it was in the standing committee on general government that the member for Etobicoke, who is not present here tonight—I am surprised; he should be here—moved a similar amendment to the proposed Planning Act.

Even though I rarely agree with the member for Etobicoke, I would say it was a much better amendment than the one we have here tonight. At least it acknowledged that demolition control should exist only as long as that municipality was under rent review. It made much more sense than the present bill. The bill before us tonight does not do that.

It can also be argued, and with some reason, that there is absolutely no need for every municipality in this province to have such discretionary powers. That is particularly true if it is the goal of the member for Yorkview to try to deal with the protection of affordable housing. With this bill, however, there is no way of telling what its powers would be used for and what they would accomplish in different municipalities across this province.

I believe it is much better to proceed as we did recently, a few weeks ago, with the city of Toronto. The member was present during the committee deliberations. His party supported that bill—perhaps with hesitancy, but they did support it because of the quality of the bill. It was an intelligent bill, an intelligent approach to the issue, a realistic bill that protects the interests of tenants as well as trying realistically to protect property rights.

If a municipality feels there is a problem and believes demolition control is the best solution, then I see nothing wrong with that municipality proceeding with a private bill as in the case of Bill Pr3. Members opposite will remember I moved Bill Pr3, giving the city of Toronto power to refuse to issue a demolition permit for a period of one year.

Members might complain that this issue of demolition control for Toronto has been discussed here since 1981. That is true. It took almost three years to have it passed because of various negotiations. But we certainly had the support of the city of Toronto for this approach to demolition control.

We dealt with this in the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments earlier this month. Members opposite who followed it will readily recall the wide-ranging debate we had with the groups that participated. I will not go into the details, but if there is any indicator of the wisdom of our realistic approach let me quote the strong objections to Bill Pr3 from the representatives of the Toronto Real Estate Board.

The Acting Speaker: We thank the honourable member, whose time has expired.

Mr. Shymko: That in itself indicates the quality of our approach compared with that of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Spensieri: Mr. Speaker, I would like to use my few remaining moments to attempt to counter one by one what I believe to be the ineffectual arguments presented by both the member for High Park-Swansea and the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere.

As the parliamentary assistant, the member for Wilson Heights stated in the final days of those committee deliberations on Bill Pr3, the municipalities may be entrusted with the power to rezone and with the power to enact building codes and building bylaws, but under no circumstances are they to be entrusted with what is only a corollary of the rezoning power, namely, the power over demolition.

Mr. Robinson: Which city is it? Is it North York the member is talking about?

Mr. Spensieri: If that does not show the utter contempt and disregard the government has for municipal councils, never mind the feeble attempts to goad me into naming names, I know of no clearer proof that the Tory members have no respect for local autonomy.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Spensieri: There is absolutely no reason to name enlightened or unenlightened councils, because we know the enlightened ones have come before this Legislature and have requested legislation that the government has denied.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I have to take exception to that. If the member for Yorkview is insulting duly elected councils—

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Robinson: —by saying only those that have come before us seeking demolition controls are the enlightened ones, I say he is offending everyone in Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Would the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere please take his seat. The member for Yorkview has the floor.

Mr. Spensieri: In the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments, it was that same member who invited representatives of other municipalities to come before this Legislature requesting similar bills, should the need arise. How could he do that with a straight face, talking out of both sides of his mouth, knowing the kind of short shrift the government gave to the city of Toronto? It is something that amazes even those of us who have become very hardened by his cynicism.

There was some mention by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) of my proposal for the treatment of demolition as it relates to the building of facilities such as group homes. If the young man from Oshawa would take two minutes and think this through, he would realize this is simply the other side of the gold medallion, in the sense that just as there should be as much local autonomy and local involvement in the creation and setting up of facilities, so by a necessary corollary there must be control over their demolition. They are part and parcel of the same consistent and coherent thinking for which his side is not known throughout Ontario.

At the same time, the member for Bellwoods questioned the appeal to the Ontario Municipal

Board. In doing so, he indicated once again his lack of appreciation for procedure, for fairness and for the rule of law. Of course there could be situations arising in a municipality where extreme political considerations would block the granting of a demolition permit, and there should be a provision for a forum for a sober second look. It is in the act and it makes the act eminently supportable.

I would like to take a few moments to state that a member from the Ottawa council, Miss Diane Holmes, attended those deliberations of the committee and indicated that the city of Ottawa would soon be coming, cap in hand, with its own request. It does not seem sensible to me, when there is a procedure and an act of this Legislature that is of universal application and can be implemented at the will of councils throughout Ontario, that we should be imposing upon municipalities the duty to come and genuflect before that arrogant majority over there. We know how predictable the outcome is going to be, and we know how empty-handed they are going to be made to go away.

9:10 p.m.

It was more than 15 years ago that the federal Task Force on Housing and Urban Development stated that every Canadian should be entitled to clean, warm shelter as a matter of basic human rights. It is obvious that unless we support the right to prevent demolition holus-bolus across this great province of ours, there will be two kinds of Canadians, the ones whose municipal councils have genuflected before this Legislature and the ones whose councils have not.

For that reason, this bill must have speedy passage and, if necessary, committee consideration.

SYSTEM FOR MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Mr. Grande moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, resolution 19:

That in the opinion of this House, the government should create a new system for municipal finance which will reduce the burden of residential property taxes and phase out the present residential property tax system and replace it with a system which reflects ability to pay. In order to achieve these objectives, the government should phase in a series of reforms designed: (1) to reverse the process of shifting provincial spending obligations on to local taxpayers; (2) to shift the funding of education and social services from the residential property tax base to progressive sources of revenue; and (3) to restructure the financing of local hard

services so that they reflect benefit and ability to pay. Specifically, the following phased-in program should be followed: (a) immediate increases in municipal grants to reflect the cost of providing municipal services; (b) immediate assumption by the provincial government of the full cost of welfare and related social services; (c) phased-in removal of the education portion of residential property taxes over a period of five years, thereby reducing property taxes by about 50 per cent; (d) replacement of the remainder of the present residential property tax with a tax system that reflects benefit and ability to pay; and (e) reform of the nonresidential property tax system to eliminate inequities particularly as they affect small businesses.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Cousens): I remind the honourable member that he has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and may reserve any portion thereof for a windup.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve whatever portion of the time is available at the end to rebut whatever is required.

The resolution is yet another attempt to show to this government that a new system of municipal finance is required and is of immediate need. It is yet another way to tell the government that the burden of residential property taxes must be reduced.

The creation of a new system of municipal finance has to have as its foundation the principle of ability to pay, the principle without which any taxation system is fraught with injustice and unfairness. The present system of municipal finance should be phased out because it is regressive. This system militates against the low- and middle-income families in our province and favours and benefits the well-to-do and the privileged.

My leader speaks of two Ontarios, one for the rich and privileged and the other for the rest. The property tax structure in Ontario illustrates perfectly the two Ontarios, the discriminatory aspects that exist and the built-in institutionalized discriminations to maintain privilege. One Ontario benefits and the other Ontario pays.

The new system of which I speak in this resolution attempts to shift the property tax burden from low- and middle-income families and place it where it belongs, to end privilege and thereby create a system fit for the new Ontario, a system that has as its cornerstone justice and fairness.

This new system reverses the trend that this government has been following ever since I was elected to this place in 1975. The trend has been,

and continues to be, to increase year after year the burden for education and social services on the shoulders of property taxpayers.

We know that in 1975 in Metropolitan Toronto the provincial government paid 34.5 per cent of the cost of education. Had the province not shirked its responsibility for education and put the burden on the local taxpayers of Metro Toronto and therefore maintained the 34.5 per cent provincial support for the last two years, 1983 and 1984, property taxpayers of Metro Toronto today would be paying \$552 million less on their property taxes.

For the province as a whole, the shift since 1975 on to the shoulders of the local property taxpayers has been very expensive.

My resolution calls for a halt to this shifting of the burden to local taxpayers. As well, the resolution calls for the phased removal over a five-year period of the education portion of residential property taxes, reducing the property tax bill by about 50 per cent.

I want to make it clear that this resolution addresses itself to a shift in taxation away from property taxes, which everyone agrees are the most regressive form of taxation, to a more progressive form of taxation. It does not require the raising of taxes in this province by one cent. It is just collecting the same amount of taxes; however, we will collect it from different sources.

Another important provision in this resolution is that the provincial government has to assume the full cost of welfare and related social services. As members know, welfare and related social services are paid by a sharing system. The federal government provides 50 per cent of the cost, the province pays 30 per cent and the municipality picks up the remaining 20 per cent.

What this resolution states is that the welfare and related social services must be the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. For the provincial Treasury to pick up the 20 per cent municipal share would have added \$200 million to this year's budget for the cost of these services. I repeat, it is a shift and not a tax increase.

There are many reasons we feel the provincial government should bear the cost of education and share on a 50:50 basis with the federal government the cost of welfare and related social services. In general terms, property taxes should pay for services related to property and not for services related to people.

Despite its flaws, the income tax system is a more progressive system and represents, or with

modification could represent, the ability-to-pay principle far more clearly than any tinkering with property taxes. Even this provincial government, with its totally inadequate property tax credit program, has used the nominal progressivity of the income tax system to offset the negative effects of the regressive property tax system.

In specific terms, education is a provincial responsibility. Per pupil expenditures should not be dependent upon the richness or lack of richness of a municipal tax base. Equality of educational opportunity for our children must not be dependent upon whether the student lives in northern Ontario, eastern Ontario or south-western Ontario. Equality of educational opportunity must not be dependent upon imaginary lines across this province that divide municipality from municipality and school board from school board.

In terms of general welfare assistance and related services, we must remember that municipalities did not put policies in motion to create unemployment in this province. The Conservative provincial government, in partnership with the Liberal federal government, has done that.

Tories and Liberals have made a conscious, callous policy decision to lower inflation to protect the wealth of the rich and the privileged and to throw thousands of working people on the streets. Why should a municipality like the city of York, the municipality that I represent, pick up the tab to the tune of 20 per cent as a result of the inane and insane policies that the Ontario Conservative government and the Liberals in Ottawa are wedded to?

9:20 p.m.

The first-year cost shift of this program is \$800 million. This may seem a great deal of money, but I want to emphasize to all members here tonight that it is not a question of additional revenues or of additional taxes, it is a fundamental issue of shifting existing taxes to more appropriate sources.

Furthermore, \$800 million represents about the same amount this government provided last year in corporate tax incentives. That amount could also be generated, for instance, by a 12 per cent surtax on Ontario tax payable. In short, such a shift will leave low- and middle-income earners, such as the people in the great riding of Oakwood, better off than paying the bill through the property tax system. That is what tax reform is all about.

In the time remaining, I am going to deal with my local area, the city of York. I hope other members who speak on this resolution will do

likewise. I want to give a picture of the people of the ridings of Oakwood and York South. This picture is a summary in a recent study entitled *Poverty, Health and Health Education*, done by Dr. P. M. Byrne, Dr. D. C. Cole and Dr. A. Donohue. This is what they found.

"The picture of the borough of York that we obtained from the profile is that of an inner-city suburb with a slowly declining population and increasing numbers of seniors and English-speaking Caribbean immigrants. Multi-family and lone-person households are significant in the borough. Substantial numbers of children have two working parents and live in apartments.

"The majority of industry is factory and warehouse. The labour force has low formal educational attainment and a low percentage of professional and managerial workers. Labour force participation is high among women, but so is unemployment among women and young adults.

"Income distribution shows proportionately more households with lower income than Metro. Substantial income assistance for health and nonhealth reasons is also given to residents of the borough. The borough residents have higher perinatal and infant morbidity and mortality, poorer child dental health and a greater increase in sexually transmissible diseases than Ontario residents.

"Although York residents experience fewer hospital admissions, mental diseases and limb and joint disorders show higher rates than Ontario. York also experiences higher mortality rates for several diseases linked with poverty and other diseases more clearly linked with age."

This profile shows that the people of the city of York are hardworking men and women who are struggling to make ends meet. Fifty per cent of households have both adults working at low-paying jobs. Unemployment is high; it has been estimated recently to be as high as 40 per cent among people who work in the trades related to the construction industry.

A high percentage of immigrant women suffer exploitation of the highest order in their jobs. They are being paid at the minimum wage, or just above the minimum wage, and must work 50 to 60 hours to bring home less than \$200. These are the people whose family incomes, with both husband and wife working, will barely reach \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year. These are the people who understand how difficult it is to earn to provide the essentials for the family.

I am sure we can easily understand why these constituents of mine get angry when they feel

they are being dealt with unjustly. They are angry when they learn they are paying the highest rate of property taxes in all Metro Toronto. They are angry, and rightly so, when they learn that in Ontario in 1981, 2,831 tax filers who earned more than \$50,000 a year did not pay one cent in income tax.

They are angry when they find out they are the highest-taxed families in all Canada. A family earning \$15,000 per year in 1983 paid \$1,432 in provincial tax and that represents the highest provincial tax in all the land. Similarly, a family with a total income of \$25,000 paid provincial tax of \$2,748, which is the second-highest provincial tax in all the land. But for those families who earn \$100,000 or more per year, the provincial tax levied is the third-lowest in all of Canada.

Is this just and fair? My constituents do not think it is, and I agree with them. My constituents got really upset when they learned that last year the Ontario government provided \$800 million in tax incentives to corporations and at the same time forced my constituents to pay \$800 million out of their pockets. Is this fair? Again, my constituents do not believe it is fair.

My constituents were also angry when a few years ago 3,500 of them signed a petition regarding the fact that we pay the highest level of property tax in Metro Toronto. I duly presented this to our Premier (Mr. Davis) and he promptly ignored it. My constituents are extremely upset when they know they are being discriminated against, when they know that for an average house assessed at \$5,000 they are paying the highest property tax, as I said, in all of Metropolitan Toronto.

I just want to give some examples. In the city of York in 1978, a house assessed at \$5,000 paid \$817 and in North York a house assessed at \$5,000 paid \$739, for a difference of \$78; in 1979 York was \$888 and North York was \$793, for a difference of \$95; in 1980 York was \$940 and North York was \$843, for a difference of \$97; in 1983 York was \$1,268 and North York was \$1,128, for a difference of \$140; and in 1984, on a house assessed at \$6,000 this time, in York they pay \$1,617 in property taxes and in North York \$1,440, which is a difference of \$177.

My constituents are basically asking, "Why are we being discriminated against in this fashion?" The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) and the Premier pass the buck to the municipal level when we confront them on this issue.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in an in-depth analysis of the problem, wrote a letter to me and to the member for York South (Mr. Rae) in answer to a letter we had written to the Premier. In it he says, "Undoubtedly the city's smaller commercial and industrial sector relative to other Metro municipalities means that the city's residential taxpayers have to bear a greater share of total municipal costs compared to their neighbours for comparable services."

Thank you very much, Minister. We knew that.

He ends the letter by saying, "Consequently, payment of a grant to the city for use in reducing property taxes does not seem warranted at this time." When is it warranted?

The minister is wrong. Both the member for York South and I know he is wrong. The mayor of York and the council of York know he is wrong. Most important, the residents of the city of York know he is wrong. They know because the city of York is an inner-core municipality. We know we have an ancient infrastructure which needs replacement. We know we have a sewer system that barely meets the standards of the 1930s. We know we have 42 kilometres of roads that are not paved. We know we have an ageing population in York, which therefore requires higher per capita expenditures to meet its needs.

9:30 p.m.

The minister should have known better than that. I say this because basically the minister is shirking his responsibilities here. He ought to have known, because a few years ago officials of his ministry worked for several months with officials of York applying what is called zero-base budgeting procedures, and those officials of his ministry were not able to suggest that any expenditure was unnecessary.

I hope tonight's resolution will be passed. I hope the principle of ability to pay is the principle we will all agree upon tonight. Those who will be voting for this resolution are voting for justice and fairness in a taxation system. They are voting for a new taxation system which will not put a burden on those who are least able to bear it. Those who will be voting for this resolution will be voting to replace a chaotic, unfair municipal tax system. I commend all members to vote positively for this resolution.

The Acting Speaker: Does the member wish to reserve his two minutes?

Mr. Grande: Yes, sir.

Mr. Eves: Mr. Speaker, while lowering everybody's property taxes would be a very

popular measure, and I would be one of the first to benefit from any lowering of property taxes, I think we have to deal with reality and practicalities in the real world.

I see a very broadly worded, idealistic resolution before me. I do not see any concrete proposal as to exactly what system of taxation would replace it or where this new-found pool of taxation revenue is going to come from to take up the slack.

The fact of the matter is we live in a democracy and in a capitalistic society, at least in North America and most of western Europe. We are not a social welfare state and I hope we never become one. I think the right and ability to pay real property taxes is a characteristic of democracy and of capitalism, and one which we should really be proud of. We should not shirk our responsibility.

The right and privilege, or onerous burden if the member would like to put it that way, to pay real property taxes does not exist in Poland, or other communistic or less than democratic societies throughout the world.

Mr. McClellan: Is this the member's first speech?

Mr. Eves: No, it certainly is not.

Mr. McClellan: I think it is the first one that was not written for him.

Mr. Eves: I do not agree with that either, sir.

I go through the wording of the member's resolution and I see the reverse of the process of shifting provincial spending obligations on to local taxpayers. It seems to me the member feels there is some sinister plot by the provincial government to shift the burden of taxation from Ontario to local taxpayers. All taxpayers in Ontario are local taxpayers. I would like to know of the new pool of taxpayers that has not been tapped yet by the provincial, municipal or federal governments in this country and in this province.

The only shifts have been those that have, perhaps on occasion, been necessary from time to time in periods of fiscal restraint. I believe they have been in direct relation to the local authority's ability to pay. All taxpayers in Ontario pay taxes one way or another. As I have said before, there is no new, magical pool out there waiting to be taxed.

The federal government, for its part, has consistently reduced transfer payments to the provinces in the very important fields of health care and education spending. If you can believe John Turner, the shining white knight for the federal Liberal leadership, he says if he is elected Prime Minister, heaven forbid, he would shift the

onus even more on to the provinces in order to reduce the federal deficit within the next seven years; that is unless he has changed his position 48 hours later on that issue as well.

The second part of the member's resolution refers to shifting the funding of education and social services from the residential property tax base to more progressive sources of revenue—but he fails to tell us what those are—to restructure the financing of local hard services, so they reflect benefit and ability to pay.

Surely local services that are paid for by the local community and benefit it should be partly funded by the local community through local tax bases. After all, those people are receiving those services.

To eliminate residential property taxation, which represents some \$3.5 billion a year, the province would either have to increase provincial income tax by 57 per cent or increase retail sales tax by 80 per cent to achieve that monetary goal in 1984. Social services throughout Ontario are already subsidized by the province to an amount in excess of 80 per cent.

With regard to the education system funding referred to in the resolution, one should note some \$1.8 billion a year is obtained from real property tax. This year the province will contribute more than \$3 billion to local school boards for education spending. Where would this new pool of \$1.8 billion for education alone come from if this money were not obtained from or absorbed by the local property tax system?

I also feel there is something to be said here for local autonomy. Does the member not feel local school boards and local municipal councils will lose some local autonomy if they lose their primary, and in some cases their only, source of taxation revenue? Will they be responsible or accountable to the people they are elected to serve if they do so?

The member says the province should be willing to assume some \$2 million a year, as he states it, to originally provide social service moneys to local budgets, yet he sloughs off the real property tax grants given by the province every year. In 1983, \$232 million was given back to 1.5 million individuals in Ontario.

Last year, the senior property tax credit returned some \$267 million to just shy of 600,000 senior citizens in Ontario. The senior citizens' rebate constituted an average of 54 per cent of a particular senior's property taxes in Ontario.

The New Democratic Party of Ontario does not have a monopoly on concern for low-income

earners or senior citizens. Residential properties are now taxed at a lower rate, by about 15 per cent, than commercial properties in Ontario. As a percentage value of one's home, property tax has actually decreased from a two per cent average 10 years ago to just under one per cent now.

The member refers to tax incentives to small corporations as a dirty word. It might interest members to know that most of the people in Ontario are employed directly or indirectly by both large and small corporations. Without incentives and without methods of keeping those businesses operating, there will be no employment for any individual resident in Ontario.

I notice the member did not bother to refer to the Martin proposal or to the proposed review of sources of taxation and more equitable distribution of commercial and industrial assessment across the province which is currently under way at the Ministry of Education. I am sure he is well aware of it.

He seems to be at odds with the concerns expressed by the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen), with whom I had the pleasure of participating in a debate in a medium sponsored by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation several months ago. In that debate, the member for Hamilton West indicated he was concerned about the middle-income earners with respect to taxation and property taxation in Ontario—those earning \$20,000 to \$35,000 a year. Was it just mere coincidence he was addressing the OSSTF on that occasion so that became his concern that day?

The concerns of the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) for low-income earners seem to be in direct conflict with the concerns of the member for Hamilton West. They apparently do not agree.

The resolution ignores two important principles of local school boards and municipal governments in Ontario, those of accountability and autonomy. Both are very important principles when looking at real property and the entire taxation system in the province. For those reasons, I cannot support the resolution.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the resolution the member for Oakwood has put forward. In speaking on it, I do not for a moment question the sincerity with which he put it forward, nor do I question the fact that reform is required in the area of municipal finance. I have had the opportunity of going about the province during the last month or two, speaking to a number of

residents with respect to property assessment. I am heading a task force that is looking at assessment and transfer payments to municipalities from the province.

In reflecting on some of the hearings we have had, I am reminded of the cases yesterday in North Bay where we had ratepayer after ratepayer come before us. There were some from one of the rural areas who said they were paying for urban services, for water and fire services, for garbage collection and for a number of other hard services. The services were not available to them or were available only sparsely.

They felt in those cases it was up to the province to rectify the situation and that the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory) was doing nothing to rectify their situation of paying taxes for services they were not receiving. I do not deny that some clarification and reform have to take place in that respect.

I am reminded of a case in Hamilton where three or four ratepayers came before us. There was one in particular who cited a case where he appealed his assessment. He felt he was paying too much and he cited a number of comparable properties. In doing so, he felt he had a good case.

He waited for the verdict. He was in a subdivision with 49 other property owners. He thought he had a good case, but what happened was that to intimidate and penalize him, rather than lowering this one property, the province increased the properties of his 49 neighbours. I see the former Minister of Revenue, the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener), coming in. I am glad to see she is joining us today. She may want to speak in this debate. I can imagine how popular this person was with his neighbours when they found out all their properties were increased just because he had appealed his. I dare say he will not appeal it again because of the punishment they inflicted on his neighbours.

I am reminded of the case of Marineland and Game Farm in Niagara Falls where an entrepreneur, a person who has built up a successful business, wants to expand his business by at least \$20 million, which would mean many more permanent jobs. He is employing at least 75 people on a permanent basis now and about 400 people on a part-time basis. He would like to have the assessment on his property changed as a result of subsection 63(3) of the Assessment Act, which equalizes assessment within classes but not between classes.

Suddenly, his entertainment areas are not assessed as implements as they are in the

manufacturing or industrial area; they are assessed as buildings. He can have a Ferris wheel or a rollercoaster. They are not buildings, but the province chooses to tax them as buildings.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is not the province; it is the municipality.

Mr. Boudria: That is nonsense. You know better than that.

Mr. Epp: It is not up to the municipality. It is up to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: You are talking about John Holer.

Mr. Epp: Sure I am talking about John Holer.

Granted, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) is right to that extent. The municipality asked for subsection 63(3), which equalizes assessment within classes, but the various categories are determined by the province.

Second, the province does not give out full information on the impact of subsection 63(3) on various property holders; it gives the information in the form of groups. One person can have an increase in property tax of 500 per cent and another person a decrease of 500 per cent, and the information the municipality gets is that it is even. It is an average of zero, and they figure there is no shift.

When they get the computerized information, which comes after they pass the resolution, they find out there are massive shifts up and down for some people. The people who are down are not going to complain, but the people who are up are finding it very difficult.

Mr. Holer has two options. He has two offers from the United States, and the provincial government is going to see him move his establishment to the United States rather than save those jobs for Ontario. Yet the former Minister of Industry and Trade went all the way to Europe and Japan and brought one job back to the municipality of Elmira.

The Minister of Tourism and Recreation will recall the municipality of Elmira because his dad was a Lutheran minister in that municipality, a fine gentleman indeed. The former Minister of Industry and Trade brought one job back to my riding. He stood up in the Legislature and made a grand announcement that there were nine jobs. He went all the way to Europe and Japan and found one job; yet those people will not go to Niagara Falls to save 75 full-time jobs and 400 part-time jobs.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We will see.

Mr. Epp: We will see, but do not act too late.

I am not arguing that property tax reform is not required in Ontario and I am not arguing that transfer payments are required, but I cannot support the resolution for a number of reasons, and I want to go into them.

First of all, it is indicated here that the province should take over all the payments as far as education is concerned. That means the 50 per cent or 48 per cent or 47 per cent, on average, of the money that is now being distributed to municipalities by the province will be increased to 100 per cent. It means the amount of local autonomy we have at the local school level will completely disappear because whoever is going to pay the piper is going to call the tune.

If the member for Oakwood is going to stand in his place as a responsible member of this Legislature and suggest in this resolution that the province is going to pay 100 per cent of education costs and still expect local autonomy in education, he is dreaming. This government would not do it, and his government would not do it if he found himself a member of it. In order to protect local autonomy, some kind of input as far as financial responsibility is concerned has to be assumed at the local level.

The other point I want to make is that the member is suggesting the province assume 100 per cent of education costs. I am not suggesting it should not assume more education costs; I am not suggesting that at all. But he is also suggesting the province increase its grants to municipalities. It should increase by 50 per cent the amount of money going for education costs and give additional grants to municipalities. That means a real windfall as far as the municipalities are concerned, and I do not think the province, despite the strength of its economy, can afford it.

What the member is suggesting is a real break as far as commercial and industrial properties are concerned. If it is based on ability to pay—and that is what he is suggesting here—various commercial and industrial properties are going to benefit significantly.

I notice that my time is almost up, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could speak longer.

9:50 p.m.

I want to make one quick point. The member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) has indicated that the shifts to the municipal level are necessary, whether it be added incentives. I notice the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) just a few days ago indicated to the municipalities in his budget that they had to assume the new responsibilities for seniors not having to pay for improvements to

their properties. I do not disagree with the principle; I think the principle is good. But the fact is that not one cent comes out of the provincial Treasury for that; every cent is going to come out of the municipal treasury. I would have thought that at least he should have consulted with the municipalities before he announced that change.

Mr. Speaker: Time.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in favour of the resolution because I think it addresses itself to and makes us take a look at what I believe is a very substantial problem. I think there is a rather alarming trend in how things are paid for by different levels of government.

In the last decade or so a pattern has been set whereby Ontario has decided to institute new programs in a number of areas. In doing this or in changing existing programs, they retain virtually a stranglehold on how the program is delivered. In other words, in a number of fields such as social services and education, the province says: "Here is the benchmark you must meet. These are the rules under which someone must get, for example, social assistance." It has said just recently to local school boards, "These are the kinds of educational opportunities you must provide by law for your students."

In a very straightforward way the province has retained total control over the kinds of services that are provided, total regulation over how day care spaces are provided, educational opportunities are provided, housing opportunities are provided and social services programs are run. Having done that, it then says, "We will now take a declining share of the responsibility for paying for those services." As a result, municipal governments from one end of Ontario to the other are faced with a very difficult dichotomy to try to sort out.

The old belief that local control is important and local autonomy ought to be respected has really gone by the boards. Local autonomy does not exist in Bill 82, for example, where the province, by legislation, said to school boards around Ontario: "It is no longer a matter of choice for you to provide educational opportunities for children who have special needs. By provincial statute and regulation, you must now see that each child gets that opportunity through a local school board."

It did its usual number in providing some sweeteners to get boards to begin the process and run pilot projects. It is now beginning to flatten out that financing. By next year when this

program, in theory anyway, is to be in operation from one end of Ontario to the other, the reality without question will emerge.

The obligation to provide the service has been set by provincial statute. It is followed up by provincial regulation. The obligation to finance those kinds of services is funded on a declining basis by the province and on an inclining basis by the local area school boards. In virtually every kind of program, that has been the trend. A necessary program is defined; the province then says, "These are the rules under which you must provide this kind of service in your community, but we will assume less and less of the financing."

It has produced at the municipal level some rather startling and difficult choices that have to be made. At the municipal level, unlike those at the provincial and federal levels, the budgetary process is a very open one. It is usually done in open committee of council and finalized at an open council meeting. Members of council are submitted to the reality of people in their community coming to them and saying: "Here is something we ought to do, a road which ought to be built, a school which ought to be put up, a service which should be provided in our community. These are the children who require this service."

Members on a local council do not deal in theoretical ideas. They very often deal with a council chamber full of people demanding that something be done. It is very difficult for them to look those people straight in the eye and say, "Theoretically, it is a nice idea to provide education for children with special needs, but your child is not going to get it because we do not have the money." That makes these budgetary choices very difficult to make. It also supplies a measure of balance in the democratic process that is sadly lacking at the higher levels of government.

This resolution tries to address itself to a major funding problem, one that is complicated by the very devious fact that very few people understand how municipalities are financed. They do not understand government is so complicated these days that almost anything a municipality does has a component of funding in it from probably at least three levels of government and perhaps four in areas such as mine which have a regional government.

It is a very difficult subject to try to deal with, but it is incredibly important, because for about the last four or five years municipal councils have been out there dealing with a kind of bare-to-the-

bone budget. They have made the sharp cuts that were demanded of them. They are feeling the pinch of an economy in a recession. This year more councils dealt with things they have never before seen.

Municipal councils are looking at people who need to run an unemployment centre in their community because their friends and neighbours are out of work. It is their friends and neighbours who need counselling on how to fill out all the forms this government sends out to the population. It is their neighbours who need to be counselled on what kind of assistance programs for the unemployed are available, because this government does a great job of advertising assistance programs when it wants to, but it does an even better job of hiding programs it does not want to pay out money to, such as Ontario health insurance plan assistance.

Here in Toronto, for example, a centre for Hispanic-speaking people needs to be funded. Very few people would say that is a responsibility of the city of Toronto, but the fact is there is no other level of government that will provide any funding. Out of desperation the city of Toronto must address itself to that problem. It is a very real problem for constituents in the city of Toronto. Those Hispanic-speaking people are there standing in front of a committee of Toronto city council saying: "Here is something we need to do. Here is something that ought to be done and no other level of government will help us. Will you?" To its credit, the city of Toronto has helped that centre.

My community and communities from one end of Ontario to the other are looking at funding health programs, hospitals, distress centres, centres for battered women and centres to advise people in rape crisis situations, none of which they ever did before. Twenty years ago, none of these things was seen to be the responsibility of a municipal council.

Councils are in this situation through no fault of their own. They are dependent on the province in large measure for funding, so this resolution makes us think about what is a major problem out there. If one is like the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), all hepped up about assessment, one thing that must be obvious is that if some relief is not provided for funding of municipalities and school boards, one will never get to implement any major change in assessment programs across Ontario. That is the truth.

I believe the government cannot bring in things such as market value assessment, no matter how great the theory might be, in a

situation where that is going to produce dramatic increases in property tax, as it does in Newcastle, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. I believe the government cannot provide the kinds of services that municipalities have traditionally provided in Ontario as long as it keeps loading on their backs programs that have never been their responsibility. The municipalities are funding them now because no other level will, and they must be funded.

10 p.m.

In all areas laid out in this resolution, we must begin to address ourselves to a major taxation problem that is unfair, unseen by most of the people in Ontario, getting worse instead of better and having added to its despair so many components that have no responsibility at a municipal level. They are there out of desperation. They are there because the municipal people are vulnerable to the people in that community, as they ought to be, not sheltered as are people in this Legislature are or as is the federal Parliament in Ottawa. It is a front-line, doorstep operation where they have to look people in the eye and say: "We do not want your kids to have day care. We do not want your kids with special needs to get a decent education."

In this House it is pretty easy for people to say that in an obtuse way, because the kids are not standing in front of them. At the municipal level and at the board of education level, people are saying to their friends and neighbours what the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) does not have to say. She does not have to look them straight in the eye and say, "There is no money in the kitty to build a school for your kids."

This resolution addresses itself to that problem. I hope all members will have the integrity to address the issue and at least to give consideration to support this resolution.

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased in our private members' hour that we have an opportunity to discuss the fundamentals of what our province is all about, what democracy is all about and what the free enterprise system is all about. When we have a motion like this it gives us a chance to see what colour we really are: Are we blue? Are we red? What are we?

When we look at the suggestions implicit in this motion, we begin to see that there is a significant difference between the Conservatives and the third party. I am pleased to see the second party is coming around. There is some hope there, and there is a chance we may begin to see more of those people come across the floor and join us over here. We will welcome any other

honourable members who wish to come and join the true cause of presenting a balanced approach, not only to taxes but also to good government, which this government certainly tries to provide.

There is one thing that should be explicitly clear. I would like to make a point that might surprise the member for Oakwood. We on this side of the House do not like any kind of taxation. We are opposed to it and, if we could, we would abolish all forms of taxation in this province and in this country and go back 200 years to when this province was opened up by the early pioneers. They came because of the opportunities. If we could return to that sense of freedom where people do not have to have taxation of any kind, that would be a good life to have.

I would like to see taxation done away with. I would like to see us not having to provide the services we do have to provide. We have an education system, a health care system and police forces, and we have to deliver these and other services to provide for the needs of our people today. We have come a long way in 200 years, and the members on the other side of the House have a long way to come to reach the level we are at and the understanding we are able to provide.

I wish the member for Oakwood had some sense of understanding of fiscal responsibility. Maybe, along with other members, he should move to Markham or Richmond Hill. In Markham, we have not had a tax increase by the municipality in the last nine years—

Mr. Nixon: Yes, but they have the highest income in Canada.

Mr. Cousens: None the less, we have good management, good direction and good control.

Mr. Nixon: They are just fat cats up there.

Mr. Cousens: No, we are not. Talking about fat cats, if we put the Liberal members against some of us, there is a lot more weight physically.

We see something beautiful happening in municipalities that have good management. Possibly, when we look at the problems of the inner city and see the number of people who are moving north of Steeles where they are able to find some of the services at reduced costs—

Mr. Stokes: Is the member calling the other municipalities in the province poor managers?

Mr. Cousens: No. I just want to say that at least in these two municipalities we have made progress. The kind of thinking the honourable member is supporting does not really have to happen.

I find a tremendous parallel between the member's suggestion and the proposal that was brought to Toronto city council by the Toronto neighbourhoods committee. In fact, the mayor of Toronto, Arthur Eggleton, was quoted in an article in the Toronto Star in April as calling it a wild goose chase. He had quite a lot to say about it. What he was really saying was that when one starts suggesting a proposal that says "ability to pay" rather than looking at market value assessment, one is not really addressing the problem that is there, because there is a delicate balance that has to be maintained.

There is an understanding that if a person has a house and that for whatever he is going to have for it, he has to pay a certain amount, which depends on the size of the property and the size of the services. What we have in this province is a progressive form of taxation. It is not regressive; it is a sense of people sharing proportionally in the costs of the services that are provided.

We know that no system is perfect. Any system developed by man still needs improvement. Certainly our Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has gone out and asked the municipalities for suggestions, and he keeps on looking for ways of refining and improving it. The last thing we want to do is to see people within our society suffer or be pushed down or be pushed to do something beyond their means.

Mr. Kerrio: Somebody has already done that.

Mr. Cousens: Oh my, the member for Niagara Falls does not know or understand when he starts saying that. Certainly when one starts seeing some of the existing programs that our government has introduced, they are programs that understand there is a need in society and we cannot come along and have one set of rules that satisfies all. There are some people who have to have special attention, so within our own taxation system our government has brought in enhancements and improvements to the way we collect taxes and to the way we help those who are not able to meet the full costs with which they are being faced.

I would like to point to two of them. I know the member for Parry Sound addressed in general the effect of the taxation, but I would like to touch on the two significant government programs that do a great deal for those people whom the member is concerned about. May I suggest to the member for Oakwood that we too are concerned about the poor people; we are concerned about all the people in this province, and we want to see that they all have a fair chance.

One of the great systems we have in this province is the property tax credit system, and this is done through the income tax system. In 1983 alone these credits totalled \$232 million and were paid to 1.5 million individuals. The average credit was 25 per cent of property taxes. Therefore, those people who had an income problem and did not have high incomes had a program initiated, supported and endorsed by our province that helped them out.

There is a second program—and I notice the member does not refer to these in his speech, his comments or his motion; maybe he could build this second suggestion into his thinking and tell the people in his riding just how much the province is doing for them. It has to do with the Ontario pensioners property tax grant program, which grants pensioners a rebate of up to \$500. Last year alone it provided \$260 million in assistance to 592,000 households.

Our province is already doing something for the people he is concerned about. His passionate pleas that something should be done to help those who do not have enough resources to do it for themselves is already being genuinely, sincerely and well addressed by our government's programs.

Mr. Charlton: That is why the government's credit rating has not gone up in 10 years but inflationary values have gone up 100 per cent.

Mr. Cousens: May the honourable member realize that the people who are taking this money are then able to put it back into other services.

Mr. Charlton: We realize that property taxes have tripled and inflation has gone up by 100 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cousens: The balance of the whole thing is that so has health care, and those people who are over 65 have their Ontario health insurance plan premiums paid for them; they also have a drug delivery service. The member is looking at a delicate balancing act in which our government is doing significant things to help people in this province so that everything is within their means to enjoy.

I appreciate the fact that the member has brought this whole subject up. I think he has an interesting proposal. I do not think he thought for a moment it would carry or that members across this House would want to support it. I think if he comes along and makes such a proposal to people within his riding and possibly leads them to believe it is the kind of proposal he would implement, he might well not win. He might win

votes from a few people, but the province as a whole will not respect the kind of thinking that has gone into this kind of proposal because they will see the holes in it.

One cannot come along and make something new out of a system that is already good and working and think the new system he is going to develop is going to be any better than the one we have already; it just cannot happen that easily. We in this province have carefully developed over a period of time a good assessment system that is working. All I can hope for is that we will continue to monitor it, work on it and refine it so that as time comes along and as the needs increase we will do more to recognize people who have special needs.

I thank the honourable member for giving us this chance to consider this motion. It is one of those motions about which one can say it is not going to fly, and neither is the member.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to participate in the debate on resolution 19 by the member for Oakwood. This is a somewhat confusing resolution. It is very lengthy and it took the member almost five minutes to read it in this Legislature earlier tonight.

As we look at the resolution, we find it has a whole variety of things in it, some of which are acceptable, some of which are acceptable in principle and some of which are totally unacceptable, all mixed together in order to—

An hon member: Confuse us.

Mr. Boudria: I do not know if it is deliberately to confuse us, but it certainly does a good job of confusing everybody in my view.

The member is probably going to say it does a good job of confusing me, but nobody else. Perhaps that is the case. However, I want to bring to the attention of the members some of the things in this resolution.

In the first part, it talks about reducing the burden of residential property taxes. Of course, everybody is in favour of that, and I am the first. However, when we talk about phasing out the present residential property tax system, what do we have then: advisory committees instead of municipal councils?

Are we going to retain the authority of the municipal councils by giving them another fiscal responsibility such as municipal income taxes as they have them in the United States? I do not want municipal income taxes. If that is the member's proposal, I think he should explain it to this Legislature more fully. In my view, the way it is currently written is very confusing.

I know I should be addressing you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for that. We know the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) talks to the television, but the rest of us talk to you, Mr. Speaker.

I see in the resolution under (c) what is referred to as "phased-in removal of the education portion of residential property taxes." What this means is the abolition of municipal councils. There is a reverse side to the formula of no taxation without representation.

If we removed all fiscal authority from municipal councils, we would have advisory bodies. I know of certain educational advisory bodies right now. The member for Parry Sound knows all about the French-language advisory committees and so does the Minister of Education. They do not work at all.

If we are going to have the whole education system run at the local level by advisory bodies with no power at all over money matters, I suggest we are in deep trouble with this kind of resolution. It needs to be clarified a lot more before I can find myself in support of such a resolution.

I will give some examples of why we need to retain local autonomy. In one municipality in my constituency, the town of Plantagenet, the good folks across the way helped to assist in the construction of a municipal water system. They have grandiose views across the way, as we know, and they built so big a municipal water system in Plantagenet that it could probably take on half the constituency of Prescott-Russell by itself.

They have debt-ridden that structure and passed it on to the municipality to administer. It has resulted in a situation where the water bill for those living in Plantagenet is \$1,000 per year per household. For a three-unit apartment building, the water taxes are \$3,000 a year, courtesy of the people across the floor who instituted a ridiculous plan such as that one a number of years ago. That goes to show how we must retain local autonomy to avoid that kind of thing.

Mr. Mancini: I would not let them manage my doghouse.

Mr. Boudria: The member for Essex South has said they should not manage a doghouse and he is quite correct. I think it is high time this government was replaced with a more reasonable one, a more liberal one.

I want to give another example of how this government currently holds too much of the purse-strings and leaves too little authority to boards of education. You will recall, Mr.

Speaker, that I raised in this Legislature the issue of the famous memorandum B-9. The Minister of Education, who is over there, will recall that she cut off the grants in my constituency to the Prescott and Russell County Board of Education, retroactively shortchanging it of \$650,000 a year of educational financing that was used for adult retraining in my riding. The local board of education had no authority. Somebody else was holding the purse-strings.

As far as I can see, the member for Oakwood wants to establish a system where the province holds all the purse-strings and no decisions are made at the local level. I see that as being very dangerous. Of course, each and every one of us wants a greater proportion of the educational and municipal taxes to be shifted to the provincial level. However, I, for one, do not want to abolish a system in this province that—

Mr. McClellan: Works so well.

Mr. Boudria: —does not necessarily work so well, as the member says, but to give any more authority to the people across the way, who cannot manage, is wrong. If anything, they should be having less authority. They cannot manage what they have going now. They should not be managing any more.

I see the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), who wants the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen) to sit in his caucus. I am sure that when he finishes the full circle he will probably end up over there, because he is as far from their views as he was from ours. However, I think I have generated some attention on the part of the members to our left—far left.

I want to refer to one other example of how municipalities in my constituency need to have more tax dollars, more of an ability to generate them on their own and to be less on their knees to that government. I want to remind members of the situation faced right now by the town of Hawkesbury in my riding. The town officials have been practically on their hands and knees in front of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt), but they are not forthcoming with assistance. It is a disgrace to have a government like that, and we do not want to give it any more authority than it has now.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Lake Nipigon.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stokes: He is giving it to me.

Mr. Speaker: I am told we cannot do that.

Mr. Martel: We have two minutes and 17 seconds left. Can he not give it to one of his colleagues?

Mr. Speaker: No, he cannot.

Mr. Martel: Since when?

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, the member should take the time to read the standing orders. The member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) had up to 10 minutes to make his presentation. Because of the time that was reserved, he was cut back to seven minutes and whatever seconds. Okay? The member for Oakwood.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members who participated in this debate. However, I noted that the Tories obviously know what this is all about and the Liberals are confused; so what is new?

One of the things the resolution talks about is the residential property tax system. It does not talk about commercial and industrial assessment; that is still maintained. We are talking about the residential property tax system.

The other thing is that the honourable member who spoke first for the Conservative government on this issue was asking where this new, magical pool was. He obviously did not understand what I was talking about. I am talking about a shift. In other words, if we want to raise \$6 billion in the province, there are different ways of doing it. We do not have to have a new pool. We can tax the people who can afford to be taxed instead of taxing the people who do not have enough to make ends meet.

I want to point out to all the members who are here that right now a family earning \$30,000 in this province pays more in property tax than it pays in personal income tax. I am talking about a shift away from property tax. Basically, the government is saying: "We will get it in property tax instead of getting it in personal income tax. What is the difference?" I am saying transfer the amounts of money that need to be raised for the social services and education from regressive sources of tax.

10:27 p.m.

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT

The House divided on Mr. Spensieri's motion for second reading of Bill 53, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Boudria, Breaugh, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Copps, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston,

Epp, Grande, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, Reed, J. A., Riddell, Ruston, Spensieri, Stokes, Swart, Wildman, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Brandt, Cousens, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Gillies, Harris, Havrot, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kerr, Kolyn, MacQuarrie, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell;

Norton, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Robinson, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Timbrell, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams, Wiseman.

Ayes 31; nays 46.

SYSTEM FOR MUNICIPAL FINANCE

The House divided on Mr. Grande's motion of resolution 19, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Copps, Grande, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, Stokes, Swart, Wildman, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Boudria, Brandt, Cousens, Dean, Drea, Eakins, Eaton, Edighoffer, Elgie, Elston, Epp, Eves, Gillies, Harris, Havrot, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kerr, Kerrio, Kolyn, MacQuarrie, McGuigan, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Miller, G. I., Mitchell;

Newman, Nixon, Norton, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Reed, J. A., Riddell, Robinson, Ruston, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Spensieri, Stephenson, B. M., Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Timbrell, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams, Wiseman.

Ayes 17; nays 60.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the adjournment, I would like to indicate the forthcoming business of the House.

Tomorrow morning we will deal first with third readings of government bills in Orders and Notices and second and third readings of private bills in Orders and Notices. Then we will deal with Bills 54, 57, 67, 68 and 69.

On Monday, May 28, in the afternoon, there will be the estimates of the Ministry of Revenue. In the evening, we will resume the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 28, the Young Offenders Implementation Act.

On Tuesday, May 29, in the afternoon and evening, we will deal with Bills 59, 61, 141, 62 and, if time permits, Bills 41 and 45.

On Thursday, May 31, in the afternoon, there will be ballot items in the names of Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Edighoffer, and in the evening, second readings of Bills 71, 72 and 73. On Friday, June 1, we will deal with second reading of Bill 65 and, if they have not been done, Bills 41 and 45.

The House adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Friday, May 25, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, May 25, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing and welcoming in the members' gallery Mr. Gordon L. Simpson, MLA, member for Cooroorra in the Queensland state parliament, Australia.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, are you sure he is up there?

Mr. Speaker: Those were my instructions.

ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I am sure you are aware that a week from today the injured workers are having a demonstration in front of the Legislative Building. It is my understanding that you, sir, have denied them access to the washrooms and other facilities in the Legislative Building.

I wonder whether you really believe that is fair and whether you would reconsider your decision. Many of the injured workers are disabled and will need access, particularly to the washroom facilities that are accessible to the disabled at the north end of the building.

Would you reconsider and make a ruling at the beginning of next week, because the demonstration is a week from today, or would you refer the matter to the three House leaders so there can be a satisfactory resolution to this dilemma?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much for drawing this matter to my attention. It is hardly a point of privilege but it is an interesting point. I must confess I am not aware of it, but I will look into it.

[Later]

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) is not here, but I want to make it very clear to everybody that there will not be any denial of access to or egress from this building for anybody.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for clarifying that matter and making it possible for those injured workers to get in and out.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ENERGY SUPPLY SYSTEM

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, shortly after the opening of the House this year, I outlined for members Ontario Hydro's plans to repair reactor units 1 and 2 at Pickering. I wish now to update members on the results of recent work on pressure tubes in Pickering unit 3 and on other nuclear reactors.

Members will recall that in discussing pressure tube performance, a distinction has been maintained between tubes in Pickering units 1 and 2, made of Zircaloy-2, and tubes in other reactors, which are made from a different alloy, zirconium-niobium.

Work by Ontario Hydro and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. was initially concentrated on understanding the basic cause of the unit 2 pressure tube failure and determining the conditions of pressure tubes in reactors 1 and 2.

Ontario Hydro decided in March 1984 to remove all pressure tubes from these two reactors and to replace them with zirconium-niobium alloy tubes. This program is now under way, and Ontario Hydro informs me that excellent progress has been made on the initial tasks of removing fuel from the two reactor cores and reducing the radiation fields in working areas close to the reactor. On this latter point, the fields in both units have been reduced by as much as a factor of 10.

Ontario Hydro has also made significant progress in assessing the performance of zirconium-niobium pressure tubes. The most recent results released by Ontario Hydro on Tuesday confirm that the deuterium concentration in a pressure tube removed from unit 3 at Pickering in early May is very low. This result is consistent with earlier analyses from tubes removed from Bruce reactors in 1981 and 1982 and from a tube removed from the NPD reactor in April 1984 after more than 17 years of operation.

These results are very encouraging, but the assessment of pressure tube performance will be a continuing process. Tuesday's announced results will not affect Ontario Hydro's program to relocate garter spring spacers in reactors under construction or the decision to install improved

garter springs in reactors that have yet to have pressure tubes installed.

Hydro will also proceed with a program, recently approved by its board of directors, to develop tools to locate and reposition garter springs in reactors that are now in operation, should this be determined to be necessary. The development work is being undertaken jointly with AECL, with a target completion date of 1986.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, can I reply briefly to the minister? His statement contrasts with the facts.

Mr. Speaker: No.

TELEVISION ADVERTISING AWARD

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in sharing with honourable members the splendid news just received from New York City that the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has been singled out for this year's top—

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: We are waiting for a copy of the minister's statement.

Mr. Speaker: Apparently, copies of the statement have not been distributed.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Do you want me to start over? I will start over.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in sharing with honourable members the splendid news just received from New York City that the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has been singled out for this year's top international award for excellence in television advertising.

The Clio award, which members see here, is the most prestigious in the communications industry, and this year's competition attracted close to 18,000 entries from 44 countries around the world.

The winner out of the 170 finalists was none other than our own "Ontario—yours to discover!" television commercial, produced for the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, I am proud to say, by our outstanding agency, Camp Associates Advertising.

This award was the only Clio awarded to a Canadian advertising agency in the television category. In addition to winning the top place for editing, it was recognized in the travel category with a certificate of merit for advertising excellence worldwide.

Accepting the Clio at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on behalf of my ministry and the agency were Mrs. Dianne Axmith, a vice-

president of Camp Associates, and our tourism account supervisor, who are in the members' gallery today.

10:10 a.m.

I am sure my colleagues and honourable members opposite will join me in extending warmest congratulations to Camp Associates Advertising for bringing this great artistic and marketing communications honour to Canada, to Ontario and to the advancement of our vital tourism industry.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, on a point of—

Mr. Speaker: A point of what?

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I simply want to join with the minister in expressing my pleasure at the recognition—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As happy as you may be in joining in, there is no provision for that.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I have more outstanding and wonderful news—

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Prior to the second broadside, so to speak, I bring to your attention, sir, that on many occasions when news of this nature is presented to the House by a member of the government it is customary for someone in the opposition to express similar, or at least parallel, views. I cannot imagine why, on a Friday morning, you would be clamping down in this uncharacteristic way.

Mr. Speaker: Being Friday morning, I am indeed very patient and very tolerant, but look as I may in the standing orders, I just do not see any provision for everybody joining in and having a mutual love-in, so to speak.

Mr. Laughren: See if we ever praise you again.

Mr. Speaker: It, indeed, is Friday.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I might just remind you that on many occasions, when we are expressing condolences and so on, the Speaker recognizes all three parties in allowing us to express those condolences. I cannot understand why, on a happier note, you would not give us the same opportunity to express a little joy as opposed to so much sadness. I ask Mr. Speaker to reconsider his decision.

Mr. Speaker: We have in the past allowed individual members to stand up and express condolences to various people, and I do not have any objection. If we are going to have a very agreeable morning and the members are in agreement, if I do not hear anybody opposed, I

will recognize the member for Victoria-Haliburton, I might say, in a very positive way.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I simply want to join with the minister in expressing my pleasure with the recognition that has been accorded the "Ontario—yours to discover!" advertisement.

For quite some time, we have known that we had an aggressive but friendly competitor to the south of our border, with an equally persuasive and catchy message. It is encouraging that this advertisement, promoting Ontario tourism, has been given this high recognition. Tourism is a leading and important industry in Ontario and each of us has a very responsible part to play in its promotion.

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, having made your point, does anybody else wish to join in?

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I will speak for the NDP. Since they are all coming over to our side anyway, I would be happy to speak for them.

I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, why is it that the only award this government has ever won in its life is for advertising?

HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I have another announcement to make here. I am sure that once again the spirit of harmony and unity will prevail and that we can all share together in extending congratulations. I have the honour of presenting some very special guests of the Legislature this morning.

The Memorial Cup tournament, the ultimate achievement of junior hockey in Canada, was held recently in Kitchener. Kamloops, British Columbia, winner of the Western Hockey League; Laval, winner of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League; Kitchener Rangers, as regular season champions of the Ontario Hockey League, and the Ottawa 67s, as playoff winners of the Ontario Hockey League, all competed in the Memorial Cup tournament. Playing against the Kitchener Rangers in the final game before almost 8,000 people at the Kitchener Auditorium, the 67s went on to win the Memorial Cup.

In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are six representatives of the champion Ottawa 67s who are able to join us today. I take great pleasure in introducing to you and members of this House the coach, Brian Kilrea; the assistant coach, Gord Hamilton; the captain and league all-star defenceman, Brad Shaw; goaltenders Darren Pang and Greg Coram, who share the all-star

goaltender award; league all-star right winger Don McLaren, and left winger Mike James.

This is the first time the Ottawa 67s have won the Memorial Cup. I know all honourable members join with me in offering congratulations to the entire team and to its most able opponents, the Kitchener Rangers, who won the Memorial Cup two years ago.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, as you have said, we are allowed on occasion to stand not only to offer congratulations but also to offer condolences. I am very pleased as the member for Kitchener to congratulate the team that has been successful in winning the Memorial Cup. I suppose slight condolences at least can go to our own home-town team in Kitchener which was close, but not quite close enough, to winning the Memorial Cup once again.

We are pleased to welcome in the gallery and honour these young men who have shown by their sportsmanship and their activity in their chosen game of hockey just how well they can play and what pleasure and pride they have brought to all of us in Ontario.

On behalf of my people in Kitchener, among the 8,000 of whom there would have been some who would have preferred the results to be different, I wish them well. I congratulate them.

I just say to the minister: Wait until next year.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker—

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Tell us about hockey violence.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: I was advised that the reason Kitchener lost and Ottawa won was that Ottawa played a disciplined type of hockey and stayed out of the penalty box.

Mr. Peterson: If you listened to Elie, you guys would be playing canasta.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: That is my understanding from the people who attended the game. I offer my condolences to my friend the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), but they have not yet invented a hockey stick long enough to allow one to score from the penalty box. I would suggest that if Kitchener had stuck to the type of discipline the team from Ottawa displayed, Kitchener might have won.

I commend Ottawa for the type of hockey and the coaching it received, where it could play the game based on skill and come out on top without having to resort to some of the other hooliganism we see occasionally.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I think it would be incumbent upon you to reveal to these young athletes, particularly from the chosen field of hockey, that in their days of retirement there is hope for yet another job.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea).

Mr. Peterson: Do not ruin the tone here, Frank. Do not say something serious.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I always improve the tone, but the elbows and the sticks will move a little bit better than they usually do.

10:20 a.m.

SOCIAL FUNDING

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and to further my statement earlier this week on employment opportunities for sole-support parents, I would like to outline certain initiatives my ministry will take to help unemployed youth in Ontario who are receiving social assistance or other ministry-funded services.

Honourable members will recall that in the speech from the throne this government made a commitment "to improve access for young people and women to the benefits of economic growth and challenging work." As part of that commitment, my ministry will be spending about \$120 million over the next three years to improve employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth and single parents.

Of course, we will not be doing this alone. Within the next several weeks, my ministry staff will be involved in consultation with representatives from the municipalities, the Ontario youth secretariat, the youth employment counselling centres, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and other community service agencies.

Early next month I will be speaking to the key individuals who are responsible for implementing social services in the community, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, at their annual meeting in Sarnia. At that time, we will be discussing in detail our co-operative efforts.

Today, I would like to provide honourable members with some of the aspects and programs that will be introduced over the coming months. These programs are designed exclusively for youth who receive social assistance or other services under the auspices of my ministry. New programs include youth employment preparation, summer and part-time employment experience for students, preparation for independence

and community youth support projects. I will deal with each briefly.

The youth employment preparation program will be targeted towards a clientele of disadvantaged youth on social assistance; for example, school dropouts, those with no work experience and those on welfare for an extended period of time. We are going to establish a number of projects with the partners I mentioned earlier in order to provide individual employment preparation and support services for these people. Let me emphasize that this program is intended to assist participants in achieving economic independence.

We expect about 5,000 young people will be served by this program during each of the three years, but implementation will take effect as soon as municipal proposals are approved in the fall.

The next program is called summer employment and part-time experience for students and is for teenage dependants of social assistance recipients. Some of these young people are finding it difficult to remain in school or realistically plan for work in the absence of part-time jobs and pre-employment supports. It is important to remind members that part-time earnings of dependent children are permitted without affecting the family benefits entitlement. This program will help these teenagers prepare for work and gain necessary job experience while they are attending school.

By the end of this fiscal year, having worked closely with the Ontario youth secretariat and other agencies we support, we expect this program will be in full implementation. Approximately 1,000 young people will be provided with counselling, summer or part-time employment before the end of this fiscal year. In the next two years we hope to triple that number.

We call a third program "preparation for independence." We are referring in this program to adolescents who are in the care of children's aid societies, children's institutions and other Community and Social Services-funded facilities and agencies. Here we will provide assistance in order to prepare these youngsters for independent living and self-support.

We know about half of the children in the care of children's aid societies are adolescents. We know many of these children terminate wardship with children's aid societies at age 16. We also know young people usually lack the support of a family during their transition from a dependent child to an independent adult. We anticipate inviting project proposals for elements such as

life skills training, vocational assessment and pre-employment counselling. Up to 1,500 young people in care will be served annually.

The next component of this package is for youth living on their own. I am talking about street kids, native young people, inner-city youth and teen-aged single mothers, as examples. Once again working in partnership with the municipalities and youth-serving agencies, we are going to develop community youth support projects. The projects will assist these people living on their own to stabilize their living environment and to prepare for employment opportunities. Careful planning, the availability of community resources and close working relationships are important if all of this is to be a success.

I am also pleased to inform members that in co-operation with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission we will be placing up to 9,000 job-ready young Ontario recipients in subsidized employment. These job-ready people currently receive social assistance, and this employment process will be done through the CEIC's career access program. This new initiative provides employment opportunities by placing young people in full-time employment for a period of up to 52 weeks.

We are also encouraging individuals receiving social assistance to consider seriously educational alternatives. Under the current general welfare assistance program, a number of recipients were prevented from considering educational upgrading or completing their high school education. The regulation is being amended and, where necessary, existing policies are being clarified to permit this to occur.

Finally, in the area of work opportunities, we are going to provide a time-limited employment experience in a social service agency for up to 2,000 people before the end of March 1985. We expect to see the initial placements later this summer. We will invite agencies and organizations to hire social assistance recipients for a six-month period with provision for another six-month period under certain conditions.

My staff is currently finalizing guidelines for each of these programs. When they are complete, we will be discussing the details with our partners. In addition, negotiations are being finalized with the federal government for cost-sharing under the Canada assistance plan.

I know the members of the Legislature agree with me that youth, single parents and other long-term social assistance recipients will benefit greatly from this range of programs.

In closing, my ministry, the municipalities, social agencies and the CEIC will work to achieve our common goal by providing opportunities for our youth to move into the mainstream of Canadian life.

RESPONSES TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: On April 29, 1983, I raised a question in the House with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) regarding the contracting out of workers at Thompson House in the city of North York and the whole process of contracting out and the need for protection. The minister said at that point he would not make any changes in the legislation but would wait for the arbitration board ruling.

As of yesterday, the arbitration board has ruled that the contracting out was improper. I would have hoped the minister would have risen in his place today to make a statement to bring in legislation affirming the decision of that arbitration board.

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of order, but I assume the minister has taken note of your comment and will respond.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: In a similar vein, the Minister of Labour indicated yesterday that he would be responding to the press reports and questions regarding lead levels at Mack Canada in Oakville. I was expecting a statement today, but it appears we are not going to get one.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the minister will respond at the appropriate time.

An hon. member: Do it now, rather than during question period.

Mr. Nixon: Let us have it now.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have agreement to let the minister make his reply as a statement?

Agreed. We will revert to statements.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I was simply trying to observe the rules of this House.

Mr. Speaker: Apparently we have leeway on Fridays.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I have also tried to keep it relatively short.

Questions were raised in the House yesterday concerning a newspaper article dealing with spray-painting operations at Mack Canada in Oakville, in which the implication was that ambient air concentrations of lead were injurious to the health of the workers involved.

In undertaking to pursue the matter further, I indicated some concern with the implications contained in the news report. I would like to elaborate on those concerns.

First, even the most casual reader of the report, those reading the prominent headline, "Toxic Lead Levels Seven Times the Legal Limit in Oakville Plant," would naturally conclude that the workers' health had been injuriously affected.

On this most critical point, the facts are that since 1981 all the workers potentially affected have had their blood lead levels monitored pursuant to a medical surveillance procedure established under the provisions of our laws and have had annual medical examinations. All worker blood tests have been below the action level in the regulation.

10:30 a.m.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the health of the workers has been adversely affected by exposure to lead. I think this is a fact the public and the workers in similar operations in other work places in the province are entitled to know, yet it was not a fact reported in an otherwise very detailed press story.

The second point of concern relates to the impression created by both the headline and the text of the story that any excursion over the exposure limits set out in the regulation, no matter what the circumstances, amounts to a contravention of the law, and further that the only permissible way to control exposure is by engineering controls.

That is simply not the case. The regulation does set maximum exposure levels, but also makes it clear that if the levels cannot be achieved—due to the nature of the operation, the length of time, the frequency of exposure or the impracticability of providing engineering or other controls—respirators must be used.

In this case, ministry inspectors reached the conclusion that respirators were an appropriate control mechanism in addition to the engineering controls already in place. I am advised there is no argument that respirators were being worn, so the suggestion that workers were exposed to seven times the permissible exposure limits is simply inaccurate.

The question that is not yet fully resolved relates to the adequacy of the respirators. The company's initial position, based on a consultant's analysis and report, is that existing cartridge respirators were adequate. This was challenged by the union. The ministry investigated, agreed with the union's contention and

directed that airstream respirators, providing superior protection, be provided. The company has obtained these respirators.

However, it is legitimate to ask how promptly the company complied with the ministry's orders and whether the respirators are now fully in use. These matters are under investigation and if there was any unjustifiable delay in compliance, appropriate action will be taken.

One last point: In our designated substance program in Ontario we have one of the most sophisticated and stringent sets of toxic substance regulations of any industrial jurisdiction. We also have an extremely able and dedicated cadre of inspectors and health support professionals who enforce these regulations.

There is never 100 per cent compliance in the best of systems. There will always be situations, because of the detailed nature of the regulatory scheme, not to mention the complexity and sheer size of the province's industrial structure, where something less than 100 per cent compliance will be achieved at all times and in all places.

That fact must be obvious to even the most partisan observer. Yet there appears to be a continuing effort on the part of some to present a distorted picture of our current regulatory regime and its enforcement and to suggest that indifference, incompetence or worse is rife. I reject that categorically, both as a general proposition and particularly in relation to this matter.

The ministry will continue its vigilant enforcement of the laws. Without suggesting infallibility on the part of my officials, I will continue to defend them in this House against unwarranted allegations. If we are to continue to attract and retain men and women of quality to the public service, we must guard against public servant bashing and that I intend to do.

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, I would like to advise all honourable members that any departures from normal procedure this morning should not be taken as precedent.

Mr. Breithaupt: Which ones, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: You name it.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join with me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery the President of the region of Calabria, Italy, together with a delegation of officials from his government and members of the Italian community in Toronto. They arrived yesterday and will be staying until Tuesday, May 29.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour arising from his statement just a moment or so ago. I was disturbed by the last general defence he tried to launch, because it clearly gave the impression that he is trying to defend his ministry when in fact the regulations were violated. He chose to launch a general defence of his ministry as opposed to addressing the specific problem that was raised in the article in the Toronto Star.

The minister still has not addressed the question of the lead levels, particularly in the paint room. Were those inspected, or were they inspected only in January of this year under pressure from members of the union? Were they major violations? Why was this not caught before?

That is his responsibility. It is not his responsibility to make these pious speeches about how good his ministry is, how good his inspectors are or how we are engaging in public servant bashing; that is just nonsense. His responsibility is to enforce the rules. Were they enforced or were they not?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

Mr. Peterson: Why was it only in January of this year that there was any indication the lead levels in the paint room were above the maximum allowable levels? Why was it that the first time it came to the minister's attention was only under union pressure? Why did it happen? Why was he so late? This has been going on for a long time. The question the minister has to ask his ministry officials is why he did not know.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: That is not correct. The respirators were always being used in the paint room, and that is part of the regulation.

Mr. Wildman: Inadequate.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The union said they were inadequate.

Mr. Wildman: So did the minister.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, am I going to be allowed to answer or not?

Mr. Speaker: Proceed, please.

Mr. Martel: Do not listen to the interjections; just keep going.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Under the regulation, respirators were to be used in the paint room. Respirators were being used. The company had a

private consultant come in to advise it on whether or not these respirators were adequate. The union maintained the respirators were not adequate. Our officials went in, agreed with the union and issued an order to the company to provide what we considered to be a superior type of respirator.

These respirators were ordered; but we are not absolutely sure when they introduced the use of these improved respirators, and I said yesterday I did not want to make any statements unless I was absolutely sure of the facts. That fact is being checked out this very morning.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, is it not also the case that the levels are not only seven times the short-term exposure limits but about 21 times the normal exposure limits?

The minister says the respirators were ordered and were considered adequate in addition to engineering controls. Can he tell us what the engineering controls are? Is it not a fact that this company has never carried out an analysis of engineering controls? Is or is not the position of his ministry that, "the best methods of controlling exposure to toxic substances are engineering controls incorporated in the design of the plant, equipment and processes"?

If the minister was willing to order engineering controls rather than just respirators at Westinghouse, why is he not prepared to take the same action and follow his own lead regulation and enforcement of the lead regulation that he took at Westinghouse?

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that an engineering study was done and engineering controls such as ventilation and air supply in the paint room were introduced.

I also want to make it clear there are different lead levels with different types of paint. A yellow paint apparently has a higher lead level than the red paint that was being used. At the time this particular study showed levels seven times the legal maximum, they were using a particular type of paint, yellow in nature, that had a higher lead level than the red paint that is normally used. There was also a rather extended period of time when the company was shut down—I cannot find it quickly in my notes here—during which time no painting was being done at all. That period exceeded six or seven months.

Let me get back to the point. My officials are meeting with the company and worker representatives this morning to verify the types of paint being used and the nature and extent of the exposure to each type of paint.

Mr. Peterson: Is it not true that the impact of these contaminants in lead in the body is cumulative over a long period of time and accumulates at different rates in different parts of the body? That is why there are maximum allowable levels. Is it not impossible to make a clear determination at this point of whether there has been a health threat, and is that not why we have rules, regulations and inspections?

The minister should draw little solace from the fact that at this point, according to him, there is no noticeable health hazard. That could change in a month, two months, three months or a year. Would he now undertake to ask his ministry officials why proper inspections were not made at the time and why this information was not available earlier, and would he tighten up his regulatory net to make sure it does not happen again?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: We are missing a point here, with great respect to the Leader of the Opposition. The regulations are such that if an exposure level is to be exceeded, respirators are to be worn. That is what happened. We do not have to tighten up the regulations. The regulations have been observed. That is a very important point which I do not think the member understands.

ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Treasurer about flat-lining. The Treasurer announced his new policy of flat-lining in his budget when he said: "I have decided to hold our direct operating expenditures for most activities to last year's level, rather than permit them to rise with inflation."

Is the minister aware that, of the 23 ministries with reported expenditures in the category called "ministry administration," for overall ministry functions as distinct from program provision, average administrative expenditures are up this year by 7.2 per cent, well above inflation and well above last year's expenditures?

Is the same minister who is lecturing the municipalities about holding the line on their administration prepared to admit that the facts are in that it is his administration that is bloated, it is his public service that is leading the way to more and more inflation and that he is not showing the example he is lecturing other people about?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, no, I am not. The Leader of the Opposition has not done his homework in analysing the composition of those ministries. If he analyses carefully where those increases occurred, he will notice they

occurred in some places where he would be the last to suggest there should be a total overall direct operating expense hold.

For example, there are areas in some of our important institutions that we have traditionally exempted when we have gone for direct operating expense freezes. Those exemptions may occur, for example, in the Ministry of Health in the psychiatric hospitals, or some exceptions are being made for the Ontario Provincial Police. Across the board, the overall average may not be zero and will not be zero because of certain—

Mr. Peterson: The overall average is 7.2 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Obviously, unless we are going to have some with net reductions, which we have chosen not to do, and if we are going to hold many at zero, we are going to get an overall figure that is somewhat in excess of zero, because there are some exceptions I know the member would be the first to advocate should occur. That is exactly what happened.

Mr. Peterson: The minister has not done his homework. He does not know what is going on. That is the most feeble defence I have ever heard in my life.

Let me point out the facts to the minister. He can challenge them if he will. In the Ministry of Revenue, total expenditures, minus administration, are going up by 0.4 per cent, but ministry administration is going up by 23.7 per cent. In the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, ministry administration is up by 10.7 per cent, although total expenses are going up only by two per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: For the Ministry of the Solicitor General, administration is up by 17.5 per cent, although program expenditures are going up only by 3.9 per cent. Does the Treasurer want more?

Mr. Speaker: No. Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Does the Treasurer want more of my homework? Why is that occurring? In the Ministry of the Environment, when total expenditures, minus administration, are going down by 0.8 per cent, why is administration going up by 3.7 per cent? In the Ministry of Energy, when total expenditures are going down by 16.6 per cent, why is administration going up by 12.4 per cent? In the Ministry of Industry and Trade, when expenditures are going down by 1.5 per cent, why is administration going up by 13.2 per cent? In the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, expenditures are going down

by 0.3 per cent and administration is going up by 34.2 per cent when the ministry does not have enough money to build roads.

Let me ask the Treasurer why this hypocrisy is occurring right under his administration, right in his budget?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I had occasion to observe the Leader of the Opposition in his earlier years here when he attended estimates sessions although, admittedly, on very rare occasions. If he wants once again to visit some estimates this coming year, he will find out that there was a lot he learned about the definitions he is playing with and a lot he should have learned that he still has not yet learned.

In any case, if he is otherwise occupied, if he wants to invite his critics to attend the estimates sessions this year of the various ministries, and if they want to choose to discuss those very items—and in most cases in my experience, it would be highly unusual for them actually to discuss those expenditure items—then he will find there are perfectly logical and clear explanations for every one of those.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer should tell us. He is the budget chief.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I invite the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues to attend those estimates and, for once, to ask questions that relate to the matters he is asking about; for once to seek explanations, so he will understand what is included in ministry administration matters. He will find that the end result of that process will be that the statement we made in the budget is totally accurate. We are holding the line on direct operating expenses. However he may want to twist his failure to understand the way the accounts work, the reality is just as we have stated.

Mr. Peterson: I am inviting the Treasurer to launch a defence of this dismal performance. That is the weakest performance I have seen in a long time.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Let him defend it. The Treasurer is the one who is setting the way. It is endemic in the administration over there. All the way through the place we are seeing a bloated civil service, bloated administration, bloated information expenses with cutbacks in programs.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: How can he explain this? In the Ministry of Correctional Services, program

expenditures went up by four per cent, yet the information services budget is up by 28.1 per cent.

In the Ministry of Revenue, program-related expenses are up by 0.4 per cent, but communications expenses are up by 42.3 per cent. In the Ministry of Northern Affairs, information services are up by 11.2 per cent. This is the Treasurer's budget, not mine. I would be embarrassed to present this as mine.

In the Ministry of the Solicitor General, program-related expenditures are up by 3.9 per cent, while information services are up by 41.1 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With respect, I think you have cited enough examples. Now place your question, please.

Mr. Peterson: How can the Treasurer justify that, particularly when he has the temerity to go and lecture the municipalities and even threaten to go in and control their mill rates. How can he run around doing two different things at the same time? How can he justify these massive increases in expenditures on administration and information services when programs are going down? What kind of example is that for the Treasurer to set?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us get the record straight. I want to know what the Leader of the Opposition is advocating. If he is advocating, as he was last Friday morning, that ministries are not being given enough money, then why does he not say that? This morning he is complaining—

10:50 a.m.

Mr. Bradley: The Treasurer is not answering the questions.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: —that they are getting too much money. Last Friday morning the one thing he was consistent about was that we must give more money away to the municipalities—

Mr. Bradley: Why the increase in PR programs?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: —so that the municipalities would be spending more. While the honourable member preaches about not increasing the deficit, at the same time he says, inconsistently, that we are not spending enough money, that we ought to be giving more to municipalities. This morning he is complaining that we on this side of the House are saying that municipalities should not spend more than they need and indeed—

Mr. Elston: You are not delivering the services to the people.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member should tell the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. I was there chatting with them about him yesterday and they think as highly of him as his leader does, which I would advise him not to brag about to his constituents.

In any case, the Leader of the Opposition has to decide which side of this coin he is going to come down on. Is it in favour of restraint and lower deficits or is it in favour of municipalities and the provincial government spending more money? He really cannot have both of those things. Fortunately for the province, he will not have the opportunity to have to deal with the realities of managing that.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He will be able to make the fine speeches. He should drop into estimates; he might learn something.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order. New question, please.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister of secrecy and the Premier (Mr. Davis), I have a question of the Deputy Premier concerning the new so-called freedom of information act. Section 211 of that act enshrines the secrecy provisions in all other provincial acts. Can the minister inform the House exactly how many acts have secrecy provisions and which acts are covered under section 211 of this secrecy act?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Secretary for Justice is at present chairing the concluding session of a conference of ministers charged with this responsibility, which explains his absence from the House today. There will be ample opportunity to discuss this bill on second reading and, no doubt, to direct specific questions to him on his return.

There were a number of questions directed to the provincial secretary yesterday. I do not know whether this was one, but he will be in his seat next week and those details are available. Also, the honourable member should not forget we will have the debate on second reading in which these points can be made.

Mr. Philip: Perhaps the Deputy Premier can at least explain how he can possibly introduce an act which perpetuates secrecy provisions in all other acts without providing the details of these. The federal freedom of information act clearly

does this. Does the public not have a right to know exactly what information is not going to be released? How can the minister call it a freedom of information act when it actually enshrines the secrecy provisions in all other present provincial acts?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Perhaps I might first correct something. The member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) is the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, not the Provincial Secretary for Justice. I did not want to mislead the House by saying the latter is chairing the conference.

The member will understand that the legislation which has been introduced talks about freedom of information and is directed to the concept of privacy as well. They are both concepts that have been very much part of the study of the commission that preceded the government's considerations, which ultimately were put into the legislation. These points can all be made during debate on second reading of this very important legislation.

Mr. R.F. Johnston: Are they keeping this from you?

Mr. Wrye: It is a secret.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Philip: The absence is also noted in the privacy section. However, this act has dropped an iron curtain on the secrecy of all skeletons in the government's closet before 1984. Anything in every other act that is secret is also to be secret; anything that may affect the management of the economy—whatever that is—is to be secret.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Philip: Anything the cabinet wants or labels to be secret is secret, anything the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) labels as secret is to be secret. What is the minister actually going to reveal to the public with this act?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Perhaps I might just whisper my answer over to the other side.

This second supplementary is really an abuse of the question period. We provide an opportunity for the sharing of some opinions to which the member is entitled. No doubt we will have an opportunity to debate this point of view without in any way agreeing with the statements that have been made. The principle of the bill was quite clearly outlined yesterday when the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development introduced that bill. With respect to the sincerity that

this government has in moving forward in this very important area, we will leave that for the debate and the judgement of the people of Ontario.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), I will put my question to the Minister of Energy.

The Minister of Energy will know that capital expenditure for the production of high-octane, unleaded gasoline occurred in the late 1960s and 1970s. Is he aware that the difference in price between unleaded gasoline and leaded gasoline was 4.9 cents a gallon in 1976, 5.1 cents in 1977 and 4.9 cents in 1978? When the conversion from gallons to litres occurred in 1979, the difference increased to seven cents a gallon. In 1983, the price difference was 11 cents a gallon.

Can the minister explain where the increased costs occurred in those intervening years from 1979, when the conversion took place, to 1983, since the equipment actually was installed and paid for prior to that? Why is there an 11-cent-a-gallon spread today between leaded and unleaded gasoline? Is it not a bit of a ripoff?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to receive that question from the honourable member. I do not know the details of the answer; so I cannot provide him with the details of the answer. However, I will be glad to refer the question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and to offer him the expertise of the Ministry of Energy to do that kind of analysis so that we can provide the member with an answer.

Mr. Martel: Since there was an increase of six cents a gallon from the time of conversion to the present—six cents more than previously—and since an additional 911 million gallons of unleaded gasoline were sold last year, does the minister realize that little six-cent-a-gallon increase since conversion amounts to an increased profit last year of \$55 million worth of ripoffs to the consumers of this province? What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I am not sure it is fair to describe the increasing costs as a ripoff. I am sure there is some justification for the price differential in terms of the cost of production of the products being sold.

I also suggest to the member that as the increase in volume of unleaded gasoline has taken place with offsetting sales of leaded gasoline, perhaps we have a market situation in

which a surplus of leaded gasoline exists and therefore some initiatives have been taken by retailers to offer consumers an opportunity to take advantage of that situation.

Mr. Martel: Since Environment Canada says the cost of production of a gallon of unleaded gasoline is two cents, and the spread is now nine cents over and above the cost of production, is the minister aware that—again using last year's figure of 911 million gallons—the new ripoff to the consumers in Ontario is really about \$80 million? What is this government going to do to protect the consumers against that type of gouging?

11 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: We have come back to the original question. Again, if it is a question of protecting consumers, we in Ontario do not regulate the price of gasoline. The price of gasoline at the pump is a matter of free market principles, and although that might offend the philosophy of the member, that is the situation.

MINAKI LODGE

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) asked a question about hiring practices at Minaki Lodge. The compiling of that information has now been completed. I would like to share it briefly with the honourable member and the other members of this House.

As of this time, 146 people are employed at Minaki Lodge; that includes permanent and seasonal staff. Of this number, 108, or 74 per cent, are Ontario residents and 21 come from Minaki itself. Twelve of the 146 staff members are year-round employees and are in sales, maintenance, accounting, security and the office of the general manager.

The members might be interested to know that when hiring, the personnel director recruited from five community colleges offering courses related to the hospitality industry as follows: from Canadore College, North Bay, 17 students; from Fanshawe College, London, 12; from Georgian College, Barrie, five; from Confederation College, Thunder Bay, five, and from George Brown College, Toronto, two. That is a total of 41.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, has the minister indicated how many out-of-province students have been hired at Minaki? Are they all from Ontario? How many are there from other jurisdictions such as Manitoba?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As I indicated, 74 per cent of the current employees are from Ontario. The rest

come mainly from Manitoba, and as I indicated several weeks ago, there is a very good reason for that: Manitoba is a large supporter of the lodge.

I can cite one example of the support that Manitoba is providing. The Manitoba Bar Association, which held its annual meeting at Minaki Lodge in 1983, liked the place so much that it has signed up for three more annual meetings at Minaki. A lot of people from Manitoba are supporting Minaki, which is understandable as it is nearby.

TENDERING PRACTICES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Chairman of Management Board with respect to the tendering practices of his government and the various ministries. It concerns a payment by the Ministry of Health, listed in the 1982-83 public accounts. He will note that this question is important because the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), the one who sets the example for government spending, was then the Minister of Health.

There was a payment of \$84,441 to a firm called Thacker and Associates. It was divided up into seven separate projects to make it under the tendering lines. Even though it is difficult to get any information from anyone over there, we have established that at least some of those contracts were related and it was clearly in violation of the tendering guidelines of the Ontario Manual of Administration.

I am sure the minister is aware of this now. What disciplinary action has he taken against the then minister or the current minister, and what has he told them to make sure this systematic violation of the Manual of Administration, the rules he is here to enforce, does not continue on and on?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of what was in the Provincial Auditor's report. I have told the members opposite many times that we at Management Board do not take disciplinary action. Those things are pointed out by the auditor. We operate with a system of accountability. Perhaps the minister can tell the Leader of the Opposition why in this case they did not follow the rules, but I am not disciplining the former, the present or the future minister.

Mr. Peterson: He referred the question. I would be delighted to hear the answer.

Mr. Speaker: I did not hear a referral.

Mr. Nixon: He said maybe the minister could tell us.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the member could ask a question and then we may have a referral.

Mr. Peterson: The manual clearly states that a systems development contract such as this should have been referred to Management Board because it is over \$10,000, as the minister knows, but that was not done. He talked about the system of accountability. No one can understand what that system of accountability is. Is the minister accountable? Is the present minister accountable?

How do we in the opposition and the taxpayers in Ontario know the government is getting full value for its money? How do we know there is not something untoward going on under the nose of the government when no one is accountable? Who is accountable to make sure the minister's rules are enforced?

Hon. Mr. McCague: The deputy minister and the minister are responsible.

MILK PRICES

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, in view of the disappearing Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) and Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), I will put my question to the Deputy Premier.

He will recognize this litre container of milk. I wonder whether he would explain to this House and to the people of Ontario why this litre of milk sells at a normal average price of \$1.06 in the four main supermarkets in Toronto and in southern Ontario generally, while the same quantity sells for a maximum of 81 cents in Montreal and southern Quebec.

Similarly, would he explain why this two-litre container of milk sells for \$2.06 here and a maximum of \$1.61 in Quebec and why this four-litre container sells for \$3.49 here and a maximum \$3.08 in Quebec?

Recognizing that homogenized and other types of milk have the same kind of differential, and recognizing that the farmer in Quebec only gets one cent per litre less for his milk than the farmer here, how can the Deputy Premier explain a markup more than 30 per cent greater in Ontario than in Quebec?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Send it over. We have to look at it first. We have to see the evidence.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister of Agriculture and Food has been called out to attend to some very important matter and would want me to draw his attention to the question that has just been directed by our colleague the member for Welland-Thorold.

We are reminded of the very high quality and the excellence of the products that are processed.

Ontario dairy farmers should be very proud of the record they have accomplished and no doubt will appreciate very much the promotional activities the member for Welland-Thorold is engaging in today.

I can only say that other dairies would be entitled to equal time with respect to this type of presentation. No doubt that will happen soon.

Mr. Swart: The Deputy Premier can make light of it, but I want to say to him that the dairy farmers in Ontario would like to have those lower prices in the supermarkets so they could sell a lot more milk in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. Swart: Does the Deputy Premier not know the reason the prices of milk are so low in Quebec is that the government there has set maximum and minimum prices to be charged in the stores? In fact, milk is being sold in southern Quebec at lower than the maximum prices. Does he not think that is the reason the prices there are so much lower than here? Does he not think the people of Ontario ought to have the same right?

Will he discuss in cabinet whether such legislation should not be introduced here to give some meaning to restraint where it counts the most, in consumer prices?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear, certainly to the Agriculture and Food critic of the New Democratic Party, that procedures and structures are currently in place here for those types of negotiations to go on between the producer and the processor.

As I have already mentioned, we do not have to be reminded of the very high quality of the product. This government has always stood for policies that will ensure agricultural producers a fair return for their activities and for their investment of labour and other finances—policies that are consistent with the responsible land use policies of the province.

In the same way that the member opposite would want to support a fair economic return to the grape growers of the area he and I share and would want to support the land use policies, we do the same thing with respect to this very important product; and we are seen to be promoting the further consumption of milk because of its obvious health advantages.

I will draw the member's concerns to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, when the Deputy Premier draws that to the attention of the

Minister of Agriculture and Food, will he look at a report that was put out by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment in 1982? This report said:

"Technological advances have improved farm productivity in the past 10 years, but a study shows that little progress has been made to improve the efficiency of food storage, assembly, processing, packaging, warehousing, transportation and distribution. Increases in post-harvest technology and marketing costs have contributed significantly to the US inflationary spiral since 1972."

What they are saying is that farmers have contributed to the fight against inflation by holding production costs down, but the distribution system has not. The government could have done something about this in 1980 when we had the inquiry into food distribution costs.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question, please.

Mr. McGuigan: Will the minister take this message to the Minister of Agriculture and Food when he is looking at this whole problem?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the short answer to that question is yes, I will be glad to. I would be surprised if the minister had not seen that material. If we are talking about storage in the wider context and not simply in relation to milk, the honourable member will know that the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program places some emphasis on the matter of storage and other factors that will assist the agricultural producer.

We should not lose sight of the fact, which I am sure the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) was anxious not to point out, that although the milk prices in Ontario may be marginally above those of some of the other provinces to which he has made reference, they are below those in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Manitoba. I think that is of some interest, and no doubt to give a complete and factual picture, he would want to point it out.

I will be glad to see that the minister has this information available to him.

FRENCH EDUCATION LEGISLATION

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to anyone who wants to answer about broken promises. The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs would be a good one on this topic.

Yesterday the minister chose to announce to the media and not to this House that the French education bill will now be placed on hold indefinitely or until the courts rule on certain parts of the bill. This is a direct change of heart by

his government, which said only some weeks ago that there was no problem in proceeding with the former Bill 157 and its amendments.

Given that this government ordered a report in 1982 called the report of the Joint Committee on the Governance of French-Language Elementary and Secondary Schools, given that the minister responded to this in March 1983 and given that somebody has responded to the response in 1984, when are we going to hear something about the governance of French-language schools from this government, notwithstanding that part of it which is before the courts?

We have a situation in Iroquois Falls where the people are waiting on aspects of this bill that have nothing to do with the governance issue but deal with the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario. As far as the issue of abolishing the "where numbers warrant" clause is concerned, the minister did not have to wait for the courts for that either. Why is he not proceeding with those parts of the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be very appropriate to review the background for my friend. This case is in court because the Franco-Ontarians decided they wanted to apply to the courts to challenge some of our legislation vis-à-vis the Charter of Rights.

I recall we had discussions at the time on the point that putting this into courts could hold up legislation. We did not want it to hold up legislation, but we pointed out to them, and I am sure my friend also pointed it out to them, that going the legal route and getting into courts, which could entail appeals, could mean the legislation would be held up. I hope he accepts that fact.

To expedite the matter and rather than have it tied up in appeal from one court to another, working with the groups that wanted to have this reference made to the courts, the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) arranged for four questions to be put to the courts. The first question was, "Are sections 258 and 261 of the Education Act inconsistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and if so, in what particular or particulars and to what extent?"

The amendments my colleague the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) introduced on the last day of the session in December 1983 altered sections 258 and 261 of the Education Act. We felt at the time it would not be inconsistent or in any way discourteous to the court to bring that legislation in.

In the interval, however, legal opinion has been given to us that it would not be in good taste to alter legislation that this government has asked the courts to rule upon. This is no sudden revelation that has come to us. We have known this for the last six weeks. No one has asked us about it. The honourable member could have asked us a question about it any time.

We are sitting here waiting for the courts to bring in a decision. We do not know when they will bring in that decision. The case was heard in January, and we had hoped the decision would be made a month ago. It has not been rendered yet. When it is rendered, the legislation will be considered in the light of that decision and brought in.

I want to underline again that there has been no change in our determination to bring forward the changes that were in the legislation introduced in December.

Mr. Boudria: I have some difficulty with the minister's answer. He said he changed his mind a few weeks ago as to whether it was proper to proceed with the bill. Why did he not make an announcement to this Legislature so all francophones in this province would know he was unable to proceed with those parts of the bill?

Further, what is stopping the minister now from proceeding to abolish the "where numbers warrant" clause? That has nothing to do with guaranteeing every French student the right to education. What is stopping him from amending section 277 of the act, giving powers to the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario, which right now has no powers at all to deal with any issues?

Reluctantly accepting that the minister may have been delayed with the other matters, what has stopped him from dealing with those two issues? Why did he not come forward and tell this House instead of replying yesterday to a newspaper reporter from the Globe and Mail? Why did he not tell the members of this House and Franco-Ontarians, clearly and up front, what was going on?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We have always been up front on this matter. I suggest we have spent more time discussing this than my friend has spent thinking about it. We have had the legislation ready and we are prepared to introduce it when the court decision is rendered. We expected that court decision some time within the last six weeks. It has not come yet.

We do not stand up and announce every piece of legislation that is held up for another week because this or that event has taken place. What

the member has to understand is that parts of those changes do relate to the questions that were asked of the courts. The courts have made it known to us that it would not be in very good taste to introduce that legislation until they render their opinion.

11:20 a.m.

GRANGE COMMISSION INQUIRY

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a concern about the amendment to the terms of reference of the commission of Mr. Justice Grange as that commission moves into phase 2 of its inquiry. I am particularly concerned because of the facetious remark, as reported in the press a while back, of Barry Percival, counsel for the Metropolitan Toronto Police force, that he would make his merry way to the Divisional Court.

As I understand it, on Wednesday the Attorney General amended the provisions of phase 2, which specifically provide that the Honourable Mr. Justice Grange is, without expressing any conclusion of law regarding civil or criminal responsibility, "to inquire into, determine and report on the circumstances surrounding the investigation, institution and prosecution of charges arising out of the deaths of the above-mentioned four infants."

As I understand it, he added a provision. "Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the commissioner may receive evidence and submissions and comment fully on the conduct of any person during the course of the investigation, institution and prosecution of the charges arising out of the deaths of the above-mentioned four infants, provided that such comment does not express any conclusion of law regarding civil or criminal responsibility."

The minister will recall that in his statement to the House in which he announced the commission, he said it would provide in what is commonly known as phase 1 of the inquiry the fullest public knowledge of the circumstances of the deaths; and in what is commonly known as phase 2, the criminal proceedings that followed them.

Is it the minister's understanding now that the amendment will permit full and complete questioning, by counsel for the commission and other counsel with standing, of the officers of the Metropolitan Toronto Police force and members of his ministry who participated in any way in the investigation, institution and prosecution of the charges arising out of the deaths of those four infants?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied this is going to be the result of the amendment, which the member for Riverdale will recall was suggested as a possible alternative by the commissioner, Mr. Justice Grange.

In reference to the comment by the counsel for the Metropolitan Toronto Police department, I am pleased to report two things have occurred following this amendment. First, Mr. Justice Grange, through his counsel, has stated that by reason of the amendment he is now planning to proceed with the second stage of the proceedings.

Furthermore, I have some information this morning that would appear to have emanated from the counsel for the Metropolitan Toronto Police department, indicating that he is not going to challenge the proceedings in Divisional Court. In view of the amendment, he expects the matter to proceed into phase 2 without any court challenges in so far as the Metropolitan Toronto Police department is concerned.

To date, my information is that we do expect this full public accounting of the conduct of the individuals to whom the honourable member has just referred in relation to both the investigation and the prosecution.

Mr. Renwick: I appreciate the response of the Attorney General. Is he in a position to tell us two things: does the amendment the government has made to the order in council fully satisfy the request and concern expressed by Commissioner Grange about the terms of reference; given the information he has now about the position of counsel for the Metropolitan Toronto Police force, can he give the same assurance with respect to counsel for the Attorney General?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am not sure I quite understand the latter part of the question. Certainly, it is our view there must be a full accounting. Counsel for the Ministry of the Attorney General will be proceeding on the basis that is going to be the case.

I can only assume Mr. Justice Grange is satisfied with the amendment by reason of his announcement that the second stage of the inquiry will now proceed. Inasmuch as he indicated last week there was some doubt about that, I can only assume he is satisfied with the amendment, although he has perhaps not expressed it in terms of complete satisfaction. I think it is fair to state that the reasonable interpretation can be made, by reason of the stated intention to proceed and proceed expeditiously, that the amendment does meet the concerns of the commissioner.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment with respect to the operations of the Nanticoke thermal unit owned by Ontario Hydro. Since Nanticoke has supplied the peak power loads for Hydro's requirements and since it is pressed into service now as a result of the shutdown and retubing requirements of the nuclear stations at Pickering, it is my understanding that the production of acid gas emissions has reached or is reaching record proportions for that facility.

In 1982, I understand some 255,000 tons of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions were registered by that station and represented the top amount out of all seven plants Hydro operates. Can the minister inform this House of the expected emissions from Nanticoke for this year and the next number of years while the retubing takes place at Pickering, and would he give the ministry's assessment of the impact on Ontario and the United States of these emissions?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, there is no question the SO₂ increases that are occurring at the moment with respect to Hydro are troublesome to both my ministry and to the Ministry of Energy. We know the reasons for some of those SO₂ increases taking place.

I can only assure the honourable member the levels of increase are constantly under review by my ministry and the Ministry of Energy. We have taken no action with respect to Hydro other than the control order at present in place relative to 1986 reductions and 1990 reductions, with which the member is fully familiar. I have no indication at the moment of what those peak loads will be, other than that they could reach what may be marginally higher levels than Hydro has reached in the past with respect to total emissions from that and other coal-fired plants.

Mr. Elston: It is my understanding, as a result of bad weather and a number of difficulties, the mix of coal that was required at Nanticoke to keep sulphur dioxide and NO_x emissions low, that is, a mix of high-sulphur coal from the United States and low-sulphur coal from western Canada, was not possible because of dwindling coal stockpiling at Nanticoke.

Has the minister instructed his officials and is the Ministry of Energy now requiring Nanticoke to maintain a certain mix of low-sulphur coal and high-sulphur coal to ensure that acid gas emissions are no higher than projected by his ministry and by Hydro? Can he also tell us that the promise made in the speech from the throne of March 9, 1982, about the implementation of

scrubbers plus the introduction of washed coal and high-sulphur coal-burning at Hydro plants will not be breached any further than it already has been?

11:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: As the member has indicated, there is some difficulty with respect to the combustion reaction that takes place between the low- and high-sulphur coal mixes. There are in place at the moment at Nanticoke mixing facilities to bring about a use of the lowest possible emitter of sulphur dioxide with respect to that type of mix.

I can only again assure the member the matter is under constant review. There have been some unexpected upsets with respect to the nuclear program, which is obviously a cleaner-burning fuel and one we would prefer to have available to us as an option.

I stated in the House, as the member will recall, that if there is going to be a greater dependence on coal-fired plants that are emitters of sulphur dioxide and the NO_x problems as well, then Hydro may well—I underline the words "may well"—consider the installation of scrubbers as an option in its total environmental control package. That has not been made mandatory by my ministry at this time. We do not dictate the technology or the kind of retrofit that would be necessary. At the moment, our major concern is to control the level of emissions.

The difficult period Hydro is going through is of concern to both the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) and myself. We are actively reviewing that and we do so on a continuing basis.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. It is related to our disappointment with the minister's response this morning regarding lead levels at Mack Canada in Oakville.

If the ministry was as vigilant in enforcing the lead controls at Mack Canada as the minister indicates, can he explain why in June 1982 the Ministry of Labour accepted an assessment and control program at the plant based on an Industrial Accident Prevention Association study whose tests did not include specific lead tests?

Can he also explain why it had to be Mr. Gallant of the union who eventually pointed that out rather than the ministry realizing it? From his statement this morning, is he indicating that he is rejecting the engineering controls that have not been done and is accepting medical monitoring as an adequate way of protecting the health of the

workers at Mack? Is he saying lead levels are not a real health problem at Mack until the workers' blood lead levels are of such a degree that they are already suffering from industrial disease?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I ask the honourable member not to put words in my mouth. Those are not the circumstances at all. Let me go back a bit and provide a little more detail. It will take only a moment.

The lead regulation came into force in August 1981. It provided or prescribed a more stringent biological control limit than the previous guideline. After the coming into force of the lead regulation, the ministry conducted a special visit to the company to determine whether there was compliance.

On April 15, 1982, the ministry issued an order for a lead assessment to the company, and a further order that a control program be instituted should the assessment indicate that exposure was likely and the health of the workers was likely to be affected. Less than two months later, on June 7, the company advised the industrial health and safety branch that the assessment had been completed and a program to control exposure to lead was in place. Copies were given to the joint health and safety committee, as required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and it appeared the workers were satisfied.

That control program provides that painters work in a controlled environment in an air-circulated paint booth. An approved respirator must be worn. All skin must be covered. The control program contains provisions for medical surveillance, including annual physical examinations, semi-annual blood tests and annual lung function tests.

I am getting to the point that will directly answer the member's question.

I understand there was a plant layoff and no spray-painting operations were carried out from September 1982 to May 1983. Ministry files do not contain any concerns regarding exposure to lead prior to February 6, 1984, when the ministry's industrial health and safety branch was notified of a dispute concerning the use of respirators in the company's lead-control program.

The following day, February 7, 1984, the industrial health and safety branch commenced an investigation of the dispute. That brings the member up to date, along with the information I provided earlier. Our people agreed with the union that a better respirator should be provided and issued an order for the company to do so.

Mr. Wildman: The minister has not explained why the ministry accepted the report of

the company in June 1982 in response to the order of April 1982, which was based on an IAPA study that did not have specific lead tests. They just tested for total particulates.

Why did the ministry not identify that as a problem and order proper tests to be carried out? Why was it left to the joint health and safety committee of the union?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The only way I can answer that is in two parts. First, copies were given to the joint health and safety committee and it appeared at that time the workers were satisfied with that control program, but I will commit myself to following up on that question.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the standing committee on resources development be authorized to meet on the evening of Monday, May 28, 1984.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

MILK AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Swart moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 81, An Act to amend the Milk Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, this bill would permit the Milk Commission of Ontario to determine prices at the retail as well as the wholesale level for milk, skim milk, buttermilk, flavoured milk and cream.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, and with the indulgence of the House, this is the last day for the current group of pages to be with us and I think we should acknowledge their presence and their fine service for the past few weeks.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 5, An Act in respect of Extra-Provincial Corporations.

Bill 36, An Act to amend the Ministry of Energy Act.

Bill 37, An Act to amend the Ontario Pensioners Property Tax Assistance Act.

11:40 a.m.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ACT

Mrs. Scrivener moved second reading of Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

ASSOCIATION OF THE CHEMICAL PROFESSION OF ONTARIO ACT

Mr. Kennedy moved second reading of Bill Pr9, An Act respecting the Association of the Chemical Profession of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE CANADA AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ACT

Mr. G. I. Miller moved second reading of Bill Pr15, An Act to Incorporate Baptist Bible College Canada and Theological Seminary.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ashe moved second reading of Bill 54, An Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, Bill 54, An Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act, is a bill to extend coverage under the Public Service Superannuation Act to part-time civil servants, seasonal workers and certain other employees in government-related jobs that are of an ongoing nature.

Auxiliary to this purpose is an amendment to allow contributors to establish credit for past noncontinuous service. This will permit the buy-back of credits for past part-time or seasonal service. The bill also includes some amendments that will bring the Public Service Superannuation Act more into line with other recent legislation.

Last but not least, a number of housekeeping items are contained in the bill that are necessary for administrative purposes.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we welcome this bill and certainly intend to support its principle. I think its ramifications in the years ahead will be far greater than we may expect as we pass it rather routinely in the House this morning.

Employment in this province and in this country is becoming more and more a part-time thing. Those people who feel they have some of

the answers to the high level of unemployment in our province usually list among those answers the fact that employment is going to have to be shared more in the future than it ever has been in the past.

This is true not just of women who join the work force but of men as well, as full-time permanent employment becomes more and more difficult to achieve. The government in this legislation is recognizing, I believe, that they have a role to exhibit some leadership in providing a package of benefits for those people who do not have the benefit of full-time employment.

Certainly, there have been a number of part-time employees in the service of the government of Ontario and its various agencies for many years, but this number is bound to grow. We all know as members of the Legislature ourselves that some of us employ people in our constituency offices who have only part-time responsibilities. It is my hope that once this legislation becomes law we can apply some of its aspects to the employees in our constituency offices who are other than full-time in their contracts.

I want to return for a moment to talking about changes in the general concepts of employment in the work force. There are those who talk about getting back to normalcy, I suppose the way Calvin Coolidge did in 1922. We are never going to return to the concepts of full-time employment that were once considered the norm in the time when some of us older members of the Legislature were joining the work force.

Nowadays, people who look forward to full-time employment are much rarer than they were a decade ago. I believe the statutes, the regulations and the concepts that govern the laws of this province are going to have to adjust to this changing matter. It is not a temporary adjustment. It is becoming a permanent and accepted fact in employment practices in Ontario and Canada and in the western world.

The bill itself goes at least part-way towards providing a package that should be reproduced in large measure in the private sector. A good many employers already have at least part, if not all, of this package and, in some rare instances, an even greater package of safeguards for part-time employees. I hope this legislation will be in some measure an example to the private sector in moving in the direction of providing this sort of coverage for part-time employees.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, we support the bill. As the former leader of the Liberal Party has

suggested, it does go part-way in the direction we have advocated for a number of years and that the Ontario Public Service Employees Union has advocated for a number of years.

I am pleased the minister has agreed to allow our request for the bill to go to committee for one day of hearings, which I understand will be next Wednesday. I have been told OPSEU representatives will be appearing and making specific recommendations on certain sections of the bill.

I am left with a number of questions which I hope will be answered in committee as a whole and in our one day of public hearings and discussion in committee. First of all, we do not really know how many part-time employees are out there whom this bill will affect. Members of this House and members of OPSEU have asked the government for figures and have not been successful in getting a numerical breakdown. We get a photograph at one time in the year, and that does not give very clear picture of who is affected.

I wonder why there is the change to four months rather than three. I suppose the minister will make the argument that he wants to exempt summer students and those kinds of people. There are other ways of exempting these people, if that is his intention. I also wonder how many people will be excluded by using four months instead of three. I suppose we could argue, why not two? It is reasonable to come down with some kind of cutoff. I am the first to admit that. I suggest, however, that the minister will have to justify to me why it should be four months and not three and discuss how many people will be lost as a result of that extra month's difference.

11:50 a.m.

I also have some concern as a member of the select committee on the Ombudsman and as our party's critic on the Ombudsman as to why the government in amending this act has so blatantly refused recommendation after recommendation made by the Ombudsman's committee on section 16 of the act. As early as 1976-77, in the second report of the Ombudsman, there was a detailed summary, which I will not go into at great length.

The complaint was about a retired provincial employee who became re-employed on a casual basis with the Ontario public service. As a re-employed superannuant, the complainant found his earnings restricted, in accordance with section 16, by a formula which permitted him to earn only \$1,074.64 per quarter. Any excess earnings were to be deducted dollar per dollar from his pension. It was his contention that the

formula contained in section 16 was too restrictive.

It is interesting that the Ombudsman's conclusion was similar. He thought there was a miscarriage of justice in this and requested that it be changed. Interestingly enough, the government at that time expressed its intent to make those changes. Here we are years later bringing in an act which completely ignores the request of the Ombudsman.

It is not as though that request were simply made in the second report and dropped. It was raised again in the third report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, recommendation 24: "The Ministry of Government Services table appropriate legislation in the Legislature during this current session removing the present restriction on the total current earnings of a provincial superannuant." Then it went into details on page 58 of that report.

Then again in the 11th report of the select committee on page 20: "Recommendation No. 24 of the committee's third report provided that the ministry should table appropriate legislation removing the present restriction on total earnings of a provincial superannuant. Management Board of Cabinet has approved in principle an amendment to the Public Service Superannuation Act which will remove the present provisions requiring a reduction or suspension of the pension benefits where a pensioner is re-employed by the crown. Representatives of the ministry assure the committee that the amendment is a priority."

That is the statement by the ministry. The ministry made that promise to the select committee and the committee printed it in good faith and thought the problem was solved. Then here we have this minister coming in and breaking the promise. After so many reports of the select committee, after the Ombudsman has found an injustice is being committed, after the former minister has promised the select committee that the necessary changes would be made, I would ask why this minister is now breaking the promise.

With those comments, I will close. I look forward to vigorous and intensive scrutiny of at least those two problems in committee of the whole.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, as has already been indicated, we have agreed that the bill would go to the general government committee for one sitting of that committee next Wednesday. I am sure much of this debate and discussion

on the pros and cons of the bill can be taken care of at that time.

I would like to touch upon a couple of the issues raised, particularly those by the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip). I appreciate the support indicated by both parties opposite and the acknowledgement that it is a very positive step to recognizing changing times. I think these changes are just a start in light of the nature of the problem and the changes there will be in the decades ahead.

As far as the numbers of people that would be eligible is concerned, we will have some figures next Wednesday, but there is no doubt that is a changing number of what is felt to be appropriate. In my view, the four-month period for eligibility is a very rational one. The four months definitely covers people who are employed on a seasonal basis, for example, whether they be winter seasonal or summer seasonal. For people involved in a period shorter than that, their employment probably is not a significant portion of their total remuneration in the year. It would not be the predominant part of their present earnings, let alone their future retirement earnings. At least one third of the year is reasonable, rational and, last but not least, practical for administration.

Why did we not include changes to section 16 of the act? I never fail to keep the promise. We always keep the promise. I am not breaking it. The answer is a policy issue. Although the Ministry of Government Services administers the act and does all the work involved in it, we are not the policy ministry in that regard.

I suggest that question should more properly be posed to my colleague the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague) who, I presume, will be passing on to a degree the views of the chairman of the Civil Service Commission. That is where the policy emanates. We are only the practitioners who carry the policy direction we receive into the practical administration of the act.

The member can ask him for a further explanation behind the answer. The decision was made, rightly or wrongly, that over the last number of years things have changed, times have changed, there is a much more definite issue of a policy nature involved, and this should be dealt with in a policy way in the total issue of mandatory retirement.

To look at section 16 of this act in isolation would not be looking at the total issue of mandatory retirement. It has been put aside until that occurs. With that, I have covered to some

degree the questions posed with respect to second reading of this bill. We look forward to the bill being in committee next Wednesday.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for standing committee on general government.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved second reading of Bill 57, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the minister made a statement when it was introduced. My colleagues and I have examined the provisions of the bill carefully and we are in support of the principle.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the usual intention is that a person's pension should start on the day of his anniversary, not as was the case prior to this amendment when it could go back five or six months. This bill will provide that. In line with most other pensions, the pension will start on one's anniversary date whereas it did not before. We will support this bill.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

12 noon

MILK AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved second reading of Bill 67, An Act to amend the Milk Act.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the amendments to the Milk Act expand the power of the Milk Commission of Ontario to make regulations, obviously with the approval of cabinet, thereby enabling all regulations that relate to milk products to be made under this single piece of legislation. Currently, regulations for dairy products that are also milk products must be made under the Farm Products Grades and Sales Act.

I commend this piece of legislation to the House in order that we may improve the efficiency of provincial statutes governing milk and milk products.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, we were originally under the assumption that the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil), the parliamentary assistant to the minister, would be piloting these bills through the House. I thought for once we were going to have a grass-roots farmer dealing with agricultural matters. I do not know whether it was a case of the parliamentary assistant simply refusing to do the work of the minister because he has been

held at the same post for more than 20 years, which I think is rather unfortunate.

I firmly believe, and I have said this on numerous occasions, it is most unfortunate that a man like the member for Elgin, who has been a farmer all his life, who has graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College with a degree and who has come into this Legislature with a good deal of knowledge about agriculture, is for some reason not considered by the Premier (Mr. Davis) to be capable of filling the ministerial position.

The Deputy Speaker: Can the member help me as to how this ties in with second reading of Bill 67?

Mr. Riddell: That was just a little prelude, a little history.

Bill 67, An Act to amend the Milk Act, is basically a housekeeping bill concerning the administration of the Milk Commission of Ontario. Basically, the bill expands the regulation-making powers of the Milk Commission of Ontario to the grading, packaging, packing, marketing and labelling of milk products.

Looking into this bill with those people more directly involved, such as the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, I understand some clarification was needed between federal and provincial regulations concerning the grading, packaging and labelling of milk. Also, whereas the regulations pertaining to such matters were made under the Farm Products Grades and Sales Act, they will now be made under the Milk Act. We certainly have no reluctance in supporting this particular amendment.

There are other amendments in the bill, including a change in the quorum of the commission from a majority of the members to three members including the chairman and vice-chairman. The amendment to the quorum of the commission would result in the commission and the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board, which has the same total of nine members, having the same quorum.

There are also some definition changes in the bill. The definitions of "plant" and "processing" have been expanded to include facilities that process milk products and engage in packaging and packing.

As I indicated at the beginning, it is a housekeeping bill. We in the Liberal caucus will certainly support the bill.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, we also will be supporting this bill on second reading.

I cannot disagree with what the minister had to say about the main purpose of this bill. It does provide for uniform handling of the purchasing,

distribution and sale of milk in the areas where the Milk Act gives any such authority. I suggest, as the minister has, that combining them under one piece of legislation will improve the administration of that grading, packaging, etc.

As has also been stated by the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), it is largely a housekeeping bill with some changes in definitions to conform with today's situation.

I have two concerns with the bill, and we will be asking that it go to committee of the whole House. The first is with regard to section 3, which changes the existing wording, which says, "Such officers, field men and other employees as are considered necessary for the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties of the director may be appointed under the Public Service Act." The minister is adding a few words there, and I think I understand the intent of adding the words "or may otherwise be appointed for such purposes by the minister."

My understanding is that there may be federal inspectors and so on who can do the inspection provincially as well. I do not disagree with that, but I would think the minister would also admit that the wording we have here would provide that any persons considered necessary for the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties of the director—and that would be provincial inspectors, graders, whatever—could be appointed, if this were to pass, outside the Public Service Act.

I am not suggesting this is the intent of the legislation, but unless the minister can correct what I am saying, to my knowledge this would mean that he could appoint them outside the act. If that is the case, it could mean that at some future date the Public Service Act could be bypassed; that, with regard to seniority, political appointments could be made. The public service association and the present employees would raise a tremendous fuss about that, but the legislation would be supreme and the minister could proceed with it.

I would like to think that this is not the intent of the legislation; but unless I am seriously off, this is what would be permitted. I would like it to go to committee so I can move an amendment to make it clear that it would only be employees of the federal government who could be named by the ministry to do that work.

The second part of the act that I disagree with is that there is no provision in the amendment to set the retail price of milk in this province. Unfortunately, the minister was out of the House when I raised the issue today.

Quite frankly, in preparation for the debate on this act I called Quebec to find out a bit about their milk act. In the course of our conversation, I found out about the extremely low retail price of milk in Quebec compared to the prices here. I have been in touch with Quebec on other occasions, of course, when the price of milk went up here and I have found out that their price was less than ours by three to five cents a litre, 10 or 12 cents for two litres and perhaps 20 cents for four litres.

12:10 p.m.

But when I checked it out this time, the facts were almost unbelievable. I doubted them so much that I had a call made a second time to the equivalent of our milk commission in Quebec, and they gave the same figures. Then this morning I even phoned some of the supermarkets in Quebec to find out whether those prices were real.

It simply means that in Quebec the maximum price that can be charged for a litre of homogenized milk is 85 cents. I am comparing the southern part of Quebec to the southern part of Ontario. That is the maximum that can be charged in Quebec. In fact, they are charging less than that in many of the supermarkets.

I know the minister is going to say there are all kinds of sales. However, there are no sales on this. The average price of a litre of homo in the supermarkets in Toronto is \$1.08, but the farmers are paid only one cent less per litre in Quebec than they are in Ontario. The farmers who produce in the southern part of Quebec are paid \$48.96 a hectolitre. In Ontario, they are paid \$49.98; that is \$1.02 per hectolitre less in Quebec or one cent a litre.

These prices contrast 10 cents and 15 cents. In the particular case I gave the members, that would be 23 cents. For two litres of homo in Toronto, the average price is \$2.09; in Quebec, it is \$1.68. Four litres of homo is \$3.59 in Toronto; in the areas of Montreal and Quebec City, it is \$3.24. The same sort of thing is true with two per cent milk. One litre here is \$1.06; in Quebec, it is 81 cents. That is 25 cents less a litre. Two litres are \$2.06 here and \$1.61 in Quebec. The average price for four litres is \$3.49 for two per cent milk—that is the normal price—but it sells there for \$3.08.

I know the minister is going to get up and say there are sales. I admit that is true, but the sales carry on for only a limited period of time; and, generally speaking, it is only for one or two types of packages. For instance, seniors who by and large buy their milk by the litre because of the

small amount they consume, are paying \$1.08 or \$1.06, compared with 85 cents and 81 cents in Quebec. In fact, it is less than that in Quebec; it is 79 cents in Quebec in the supermarkets at the present time.

There is no secret about one of the main reasons milk is so much cheaper in Quebec than it is here. That government has passed legislation which sets the minimum and maximum prices of milk. I have given the maximum prices which are in effect at the present time. Incidentally, this is not something that is going to be raised just next week. The increases were put in effect in April. Although theirs was not as much, generally they are reasonably well in step with Ontario in the timing of the increases.

Here in this province there is no control as there is in varying degrees in other provinces in this nation. Although I think I have as much conviction as the minister in the free enterprise system, or I should say in the competitive system, the fact is that when competition disappears, one has to have an alternative. That is what the minister and the government of this province refuse to admit.

When one company, John Labatt Ltd., owns at least 50 per cent of the processing capacity of milk in this province, according to what it has stated itself, we are getting to a monopoly stage. When there is a situation where in the last 15 years the number of companies processing milk in this province has dropped from something like 175 to 30, competition is substantially lost.

I suggest to the minister that he has to take a look at this. He has to do an in-depth examination to see whether the time has not come when the government should intervene on behalf of the consumers. The people on the other side of the House have done a lot of talking about restraint, but the application has really only been to wages and salaries. The government has not done any restraint when it comes to Ontario Hydro rates; it has not done any restraint when it comes to prices, even though the corporations may be making huge profits and may be semi-monopolies; and it has not done any restraint when it comes to the price of milk, one of the most essential commodities in our society.

I suggest to the minister, to this House and to the people of Ontario that this bill has a very serious omission. Therefore, I would like it to go to committee of the whole House so we can move an amendment to correct that omission.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, in the interests of time I will be very brief. I am pleased

the honourable members opposite support the bill in principle.

In answer to the two points raised by the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), I simply want to state that his understanding of section 3 of the act, which was given to him at some length over the telephone by Mr. McMurchy of my ministry staff, is correct. Experience has proved that, legally and technically speaking, we need this amended wording to be able to cross-appoint employees of the federal government who from time to time are involved in plants in this province when we ask them to carry out the purposes of the act. I understand what the honourable member is saying, but I cannot agree that the construction of the wording here could be abused in the ways he is suggesting.

With respect to his second point, which I understand forms the basis of the private member's bill he introduced this morning, first of all I am not going to dwell on the price wars, although they do occur from time to time—in fact, with some regularity. I watch them very carefully myself; having the kind of household we have and consuming the amounts of milk we do, we are very conscious of it.

Even in my own community, I see wide fluctuations in the price of milk, as much as 30 or 40 cents for a four-litre bag of two per cent; so I do not know that taking a price in southern Quebec and comparing it with a price in a given store, or even a given area, is necessarily a fair comparison. I do not think, though, that he should dismiss so casually the significance of the one cent per litre for the farmers, because that represents about 2.5 per cent of income and is therefore significant.

The member's comments with respect to Labatt's and its involvement in the milk industry are well noted. I should point out to him, though, that notwithstanding the acquisitions by Labatt's in the last year or two, it has recently lost market share. The reason for that has been the entry into the field by Dominion Stores through the introduction of the new Heritage Farm line of dairy products into its stores. So notwithstanding their acquisitions, Labatt's has in fact lost a significant proportion of market share recently.

I hope we can carry this now on second reading. We will go into committee of the whole House to hear the member's amendment. On the basis of what he has said to this point, I doubt that I will support it, but I will wait until I see it. Then we can perhaps stack it and carry on with the

other two bills that are standing in my name this morning. I hope we can deal with them all today.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

12:20 p.m.

GRAIN CORN MARKETING ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved second reading of Bill 68, An Act respecting the Marketing of Grain Corn.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, this bill provides that fees be collected when grain corn is sold in this province. This compulsory but refundable checkoff would be forwarded to the Ontario Corn Producers' Association. The association would use the funds to advance the production and marketing of grain corn. I commend this act to my colleagues in the House. It will provide for the long-term financial stability of what has developed into a very important producers' organization in Ontario.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, it is not often I have an opportunity to give the minister credit—he seldom gives one the occasion—but I have to congratulate him for bringing in this legislation shortly after he met with the executive and other members of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association.

I am a little surprised, however, that the association had to learn about the introduction of this bill by reading a newspaper article. They had no idea the bill had come in for second reading until opposition critics contacted some members of the executive, informing them the bill had come in for second reading and asking for their comments.

Of course, it caught them off guard because they intended to have a meeting next week to go over the bill and come to their own conclusions as to whether they liked it or not. Obviously, they are not going to have that opportunity because they learned only last night, when opposition critics contacted them for their comments, that we were going to be debating it on second reading.

However, I know the corn producers are happy the minister has introduced the bill. I know the executive of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association has met with the minister and caucus members within relatively recent times to acquaint them with the current status and achievements of the organization.

It had its beginning as a provincial association within the last year, although I believe corn

producers have been attempting to organize for some time on a more local basis. I am sure my colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) will detail more of the history of the corn organizations when he gets up to debate this bill.

The Ontario Corn Producers' Association has been endeavouring to provide a service to the corn producers of this province without adequate financing. Consequently, they met with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) to discuss the need for a checkoff levy to provide long-term financing for the association and to solicit his advice on the development of a financial protection plan for grain corn.

The corn producers' association, as well as the grain and feed dealers, was hoping that both a financial protection plan and a checkoff levy for the financing of the association would be introduced in legislation at the same time. They hoped that both plans would go through at about the same time.

I am sure the minister is working on legislation for a financial protection plan and I sincerely hope he will advance it expeditiously so the plan can go into effect before the corn harvest season of this year.

We are pleased the minister has responded to the request of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association for a compulsory refundable checkoff levy, as the organization has certainly demonstrated during its initial year of operation that it is capable of working effectively on behalf of corn producers, that it has the support of farmers and of the Ontario agricultural community in general and that it can work constructively with other organizations to the benefit of all.

The association had considered the long-term prospect of procuring funding via membership, but rejected such a prospect for a number of reasons, including that benefits from their activities would accrue to all corn producers, that no other major farm commodity group in Ontario is funded by membership fees and that their future levels of achievements would be diminished markedly if they had to spend a large proportion of their time selling and ensuring renewal of memberships.

In essence, the long-term wellbeing of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association depends on the establishment of a levy on product sales, and the minister has met with its request. The New Democratic Party critic and I had a chance to discuss the contents of this bill very briefly last night. The NDP critic expressed some reserva-

tions about the bill. First of all, it does not provide for a vote, and he was somewhat concerned that section 5 of the bill appears to give tremendous power to the board of directors of the association. He also questioned the 40 cents per metric ton maximum levy.

I spent all last night sitting up. I could not get to sleep for wondering if the NDP critic's concerns might be justified. Having given them considerable thought and contacted the executive member of the corn producers' association this morning, I have come to the conclusion that these concerns are not justified. The corn producers' association has had more than 40 meetings on this subject, which led up to the introduction of this bill.

I was speaking this morning to Terry Daynard, secretary of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association. I was informed the association has no complaints about the bill as it stands at present. They are more interested in having a speedy passage of this bill than in having the bill go down to committee. They certainly would have questions about the bill if a vote were to be taken, as I am sure may be suggested by the NDP critic when he stands in his place. However, the corn producers' association does not feel a vote is required. They feel justified in asking for a refundable checkoff without a vote.

If the checkoff were nonrefundable, then they would definitely urge that a vote be taken, but it is a refundable checkoff and they see no reason for going to the corn producers to get their concurrence with this bill. Furthermore, the beef and the sheep checkoff does not require a vote, so why should the corn producers be in a different situation? If there were a vote requirement a few years down the road, the corn producers' association would see it as a bit of a time bomb ticking away.

We know what happens in the farming industry. When things are going well, farmers are prepared to go along with a program that requires a checkoff. When times get a little tough, they start to question whether they want or can afford a checkoff. If a vote were taken, it would depend on the price the farmer gets for his product whether he would be prepared to support a checkoff or turn it down flat.

12:30 p.m.

I believe this is what the corn producers' association meant when its members said, "If we were to have a vote down the line, it would simply be a bit of a time bomb ticking away." The association would be hoping that prices would be good, the farmers would be happy and

they would be quite prepared to have this automatic checkoff, but it does not always work out that way. The association feels it is justified in having this thing go through without a vote of the producers.

It could be argued, and I am sure once again the NDP critic might argue, that section 5 gives simply too much power to the board. Under the constitution of the corn producers' association, however, the board cannot make any changes without the approval of the members at its annual meeting. The association does not feel the board has all that much power, because it does have to go to the members during an annual meeting to get their approval before any changes can be made. The association certainly would not want the power to change the regulations without the consent of its members, so I see nothing wrong with section 5 as it is written at present.

The NDP critic expressed some concern about the 40-cent maximum checkoff levy per metric ton of corn. The corn producers' association was asking for a checkoff of only 20 cents per metric ton. It is not concerned about leaving it at the 40-cent maximum, however, because 10 years down the road inflation may have doubled. This means the checkoff can move up in accordance with inflation without the minister having to come into the Legislature to get the approval of the House to increase the levy from 20 cents to 25 cents to 30 cents and so on. There is no problem in moving the checkoff levy to 40 cents if indeed, as I have indicated, inflation has been such that it may have doubled in 10 years.

I am not going to ask that the bill go to committee. I did indicate to the NDP critic last night that I could understand his concerns and that maybe the best way to work out these concerns would be to send the bill to committee. After having had a lengthy conversation this morning with Mr. Daynard of the corn producers' association, however, I have come to the conclusion that our concerns are not all that justified.

The association requests that the bill receive speedy passage, allowing the minister to spend the time to bring in some legislation regarding a financial protection plan, which the corn producers hope might be in place before they start to harvest their corn this September or October.

Once again, the minister deserves congratulations for bringing in this legislation and has our support.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I rise to express our party's support for second reading of this bill.

Everyone knows the NDP was a strong supporter of marketing boards, farm organizations and many other democratic organizations for many decades before they were popular. Our opinions have not changed. We are still very supportive of marketing boards and organizations that are beneficial to the farmers; they cannot get what they deserve unless they have strong organizations.

I rise to speak on this bill because we in the NDP have had discussions with the Ontario Corn Producers' Association over the fact that this fledgling association has done an excellent job over the year or so since it was formed. I was out to its organizational meetings, unlike the member from Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), and heard a lot of the discussion that took place out there. I realized the problems they had and the problems they were going to have in bringing this organization to where it would have the power it must have if it is going to provide the service it should to the corn producers of this province.

I share with the member for Huron-Middlesex the concern that the corn producers have not seen this bill. That is extremely negligent on the part of the minister, that it would have been tabled in the House and called for second reading before they have even seen the bill.

I do not deny for one moment that the principles embodied in this bill have been discussed at length by the association and the minister. Generally speaking, perhaps totally, those principles are embodied in this bill. However, sometimes a detail of the wording can be improved. It seems to me the association should have had the opportunity to have seen the details of the wording and to have made comments on it before we dealt with it here.

I recognize their desire to see quick passage of this bill. The principles they proposed are now in the bill and they thought if any details were to be ironed out they could be ironed out at a later date. But it would be much nicer and much more appropriate, and I think much more respectful, if they had had the opportunity to see the bill before it came before this House. At least they could have seen it after first reading, before it came up for second reading.

When I spoke to the secretary of the corn association yesterday it was the first he knew this was going to come up in this Legislature today. Although he had taken the opportunity to familiarize himself generally with the bill, he had not had an opportunity to peruse it in some depth.

I think it is not unfair to say the minister should be faulted for not having taken that final step.

However he is to be commended for the fact the bill is even here. I recognize this kind of bill is in some respects in conflict with the right-wing philosophy of the government. To have brought it in at this time, at the request of the corn producers, is to his credit.

I would like the minister to take note of a couple of minor things in the bill and to respond when he gets up. First I would ask what the relationship is between the Ontario Corn Growers' Association, as designated in the Agricultural Associations Act, and the new Ontario Corn Producers' Association. The present act does have an Ontario Corn Growers' Association. Is it a lively organization? Has this one superseded it? If it has, then should that act not be changed as well? Perhaps the minister will comment on that when he gets up.

12:40 p.m.

I am also a little concerned, and I do not profess to be a lawyer of course, about the wording of this act. It seems to me it should say in this act that each licensee is a member of the association. I do not see that in the act. How do they become members of the association if the act does not say?

I realize there are provisions in the Agricultural Associations Act for the payment of fees to be a member, but to the best of my knowledge this has not been included in that particular act. Where in this act does it say every person who pays a licence fee, which means every person who sells corn, at least at the beginning will be a member of the corn producers' association? Perhaps the minister would like to mention those two items when he gets up.

I want to acknowledge publicly that this fledgling association has done an excellent job. It got some advance payments for corn producers. It has fairly and very strongly represented the interests of the corn producers of this province. Because of all the difficulties there are in signing up memberships, I am supportive of the fact that at this stage—when they apparently now have signed producers who are growing about 25 per cent of the corn in this province into their organization, and when there is the difficulty of even finding out who the other thousands of producers are—the time has come for this revocable and refundable checkoff.

I do not think the member for Huron-Middlesex intended in what he said to convey the interpretation that we were saying there should be a vote to implement the association and the checkoff, but I want to state very emphatically we are not asking for this and that I have never

proposed it. I think the member for Huron-Middlesex would agree this has not been our position at all. I do not think there is any alternative to going ahead with the checkoff at the present time. They have shown their good faith, that they are a conscientious organization representing the corn producers.

We in this party support the checkoff. In fact, my only concern with this bill is that it may give some grounds to those who will ultimately oppose this checkoff. Granted, they can withdraw from it, but those who may be in opposition to this bill may be given some grounds on which to mount some opposition to it. I guess that is what bothers me, if anything, about this bill. It is not what is intended to be included in this bill.

The fact that there is no provision for any vote at any time on the checkoff by the association is a matter of some concern. I wonder if the minister would also comment on this when he rises. I believe there is provision either in the regulations or in the Farm Products Marketing Act—and I may be wrong—whereby, if 15 per cent of those producers sign a petition, then a vote is taken. I wonder—and this is why I had hoped we would have the time to go to committee—if this kind of provision could not be applicable here if we decide, because of time or whatever, that down the road they are not going to put in any provision to have a vote after three or five years or whatever the case may be.

This matter of having the members have the final say on the major policies of an organization is a pretty important principle. It is true, as I have already stated, that the association has done a good job. It is true that I certainly support this initial thrust. I will support the bill and my party will, even if no changes are made in it. But the fact that there is no opportunity for the membership to decide on the major provisions, even retroactively, does concern me a bit. As members of this Legislature, we are passing this bill, which the Ontario Corn Growers' Association has asked for.

If there is any fault relating to the principles of accountability and democracy down the road, that fault will not rest with the corn growers' association. It rests with us as members of this Legislature. I am sure the minister recognizes that. I would like to see someplace, whether it is by petition or by vote down the road, where the membership of the association can pass on these major policies involving the association. That is one part of the concern I have.

The second part is that clause 5 states, "Where the board of directors of the association is of the

opinion that a majority of the members of the association are in favour thereof, the board of directors may recommend through the minister to the Lieutenant Governor in Council the making, amending or revoking of regulations respecting any of the matters set forth in section 6."

There are seven matters set forth in section 6 that can be done by regulation, including the levying of the licence fee, which is proposed at 20 cents per ton.

The intent of the corn growers' association and the intent of the government, I am sure, is that there would be a resolution passed at one of the annual meetings or some special membership meeting. They would make the recommendation and the directors would then make the recommendation to the minister. If, in the opinion of the minister, the regulation was well-founded, the regulation would be changed to comply with the request.

The actual wording of the bill does not say that. I suggest those in opposition, who will be in opposition when the fees are starting to be deducted, will view that as a lack of democracy. They will point to it as a lack of democracy in the organization just because the bill is worded that way. It will not be from the action of the corn growers' association, but because the bill is worded that way.

Theoretically, the directors do not have to bring anything up at the annual meeting. A month afterwards, if they decided they wanted a change in the fee, they could do it. Those directors are not going to do that; nevertheless, the bill is worded that way and can raise some opposition.

Finally, we have put in 40 cents when they are asking for 20 cents. I recognize the validity of what the minister said and what the member for Huron-Middlesex said in this regard. The value of the dollar and the value of the cent changes from year to year. We are given the opportunity here to change that just by changing a regulation. I recognize all that. But somebody out there who is getting \$100 or \$200 deducted in the first year may raise some opposition to this. He will say, "Look, they can change that right up to 40 cents." He can go around and build quite a campaign on those things.

12:50 p.m.

I have these concerns because I am so anxious that this organization be successful. It is because we may give some grounds to the opposition to work successfully against the organization that I raise those issues here in the House today. I would like to see this bill tabled until the

association has a chance to see it, to go over it in detail and to read the debate that takes place here today; then we can make the final decision on it.

I want to say immediately that cannot happen in a week. Maybe we have to pass this bill today because there is urgency. We know how long it takes sometimes to enact regulations. We saw this with the amendments to the Grain Elevator Storage Act. I do not think we have those out yet, and they were passed eleven months ago. We know the kind of delay there can be from the passage of a bill until it is operative.

Having said that, one week, or two or three or four days, does not seem to be unreasonable, so they can read the debate that has taken place here in this House and make their own decision on it. Quite frankly, if the corn producers' association want it left like that, word for word, I am not going to be the one who raises strenuous opposition in this House against it. But I think these are legitimate concerns of people who want to see this legislation be effective and of those who want to maximize democracy and accountability.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to rise in support of this bill. I have a couple of comments in regard to those made by the member for Welland-Thorold, which lead me into thoughts I was going to present anyway. He spoke about our agricultural critic, the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), not having attended a particular meeting.

I want to go back into the history of this corn organization a bit. It started in the area I represent, the riding of Kent-Elgin, particularly in Kent county. Kent and Essex counties were the original corn producers in Ontario when we used to grow the old open-pollinated corn varieties rather than the present hybrid corn varieties. Those were the only varieties that would grow in the heat units we had in Ontario. With the expansion of the hybrid varieties, we now grow corn as far north as Ottawa and even beyond in some cases.

There was an association back in the 1930s, largely of open-pollinated producers, who put on a corn show every winter in the city of Chatham. There was competition among people who selected certain corncobs and developed their own varieties and showed these at the corn show in Chatham in the 1930s. That died out in the war years of the 1940s, which coincided with the time when hybrid corn came into the county.

There was another group organized at the time—I think they called themselves the Corn Producers' Association—to represent hybrid grow-

ers. A couple of the most prominent members of that were the late Darrel Dubenville, whom I remember speaking about hybrid corn at most meetings I attended. Another member, who is still living and very active in corn production and all forms of agriculture, is George Morris. Probably the minister is aware of that very fine gentleman. He knows him personally I believe.

About 1969 or in the late 1960s, we started running into some very low corn prices in the 90-cents-a-bushel range. Production was expanding because of the hybrid varieties, which were moving corn production out of Essex and Kent counties into Elgin, Lambton, Middlesex and right through the rest of the province. The word came out that producers wanted to start a corn marketing board. They had the example of the Soya Bean Growers' Marketing Board and the Wheat Producers' Marketing Board, etc., and some of these were very successful. It was at a time when I was president of the Kent County Federation of Agriculture.

I was a corn producer myself, growing about 125 acres of corn at the time, but I was not really conversant with corn marketing. I took that winter off from my other activities and studied that subject. We had a series of meetings throughout the county—they were largely in Kent county because it was just beginning. As we developed our program, we took it to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. The federation ruled on whether or not it approved of the particular plan we had offered.

We would have had this act presented to us about 10 or 12 years ago had not Mother Nature intervened. It was the closest North America ever came to famine. That seems a little strange to talk about in a country that is so accustomed to having surpluses, but in 1970 or 1971—I would have to check the record—we came close to having one.

A disease began in the United States called the southern corn leaf blight. This disease had always been around in the southern states but had never really attained much prominence. In that year it wiped out the corn crop in the southern states. It moved up through the middle states where it cut production by 30 per cent or 40 per cent and swept right up into southern Ontario where it cut production by possibly 10 or 15 per cent.

The problem had come about through market forces and developments in this hybrid corn business. In order to cut down the cost of seed corn and to get away from the detasseling operation, they developed a new variety. In

detasseling one goes through the corn and pulls out the tassels.

They had developed a male sterile variety of corn to use as the male parent in those crosses. Because it was a much cheaper operation than any other method of producing seed corn, all the seed corn producers in North America were using the same male parent material for its sterility. They did not discover until that year that particular germ plasm was susceptible to the southern corn leaf blight. Had weather conditions been just a little different—had it turned wet through our season in the northern half of North America—we could have had a total wipeout of our corn crop that year.

Those activities raised the price of corn to the point where producers were not quite so concerned about it. Then in 1972-73 the Russians came in and bought up all the surpluses of coarse grains in North America—corn, wheat. They cleaned up the market to where we had some pretty good prices for a number of years.

Now we have caught up in production and the growers are again interested in doing something for themselves. They realize, as they did in the 1970s, that it is pretty difficult for Ontario to make much of an impact on the corn marketing of North America when we produce only about 2.5 per cent of total North American supplies. It is a market that is governed by conditions in the United States.

However, there are many things we can do besides directly affecting the price. One concerns the freight rates that apply to moving grain from southern Ontario to Toronto, which is really the main movement of this crop. Surprisingly, instead of going east from Toronto, the corn goes west and north, because the biggest area of consumption is really in the Perth area. That is where there is a major concentration of hogs, cattle, chicken and livestock. The main movement is from storage in Toronto back towards Chatham, although there is movement towards eastern Ontario as well.

There are things such as premiums for corn. When a person sees those lineups of wagons and trucks at an elevator in the fall, he often fails to realize when looking at an individual load of corn what the process is. The person on the receiving end might decide it is a premium corn. It is then dumped into the hopper unknown to the producer; by pulling certain levers and so on, he moves the stream through the mill and that corn goes into a special bin.

On motion by Mr. McGuigan, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

236. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide a list of all prosecutions with respect to violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in the past year in cases (1) where fatalities occurred, (2) where injuries occurred and (3) where no accident or injury occurred? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

237. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide the number of prosecutions with respect to violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in the past year under each of the industrial, construction and mining sections? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

238. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide the number of prosecutions with respect to violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in the past year in unionized and nonunionized work places? How many of these involved charges against owners, supervisors and workers? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

239. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide the number of prosecutions with respect to violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in the past year, with the specific companies charged? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

240. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide the number of convictions for violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in the past year? How many owners, supervisors and workers were convicted? How many charges were laid against owners, supervisors and workers but subsequently dropped? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

241. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide a list of the prosecutions with respect to violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in the past year indicating which section(s) of the act or which regulations had been contravened? [Tabled March 17, 1984]

242. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide a list of all the companies in Ontario which are subject to the isocyanates regulation, a list of when each has reported as having undertaken the assessment required under the regulation and a list of when each put the control program in place? Would the minister also provide a list of the particular union(s)

involved at each company's work place? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

243. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide a list of all the companies in Ontario which are subject to the mercury regulation, a list of when each has reported as having undertaken the assessment required under the regulation and a list of when each put the control program in place? Would the minister also provide a list of the particular union(s) involved at each company's work place? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

244. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide a list of all the companies in Ontario which are subject to the coke oven emissions regulation, a list of when each has reported as having undertaken the assessment required under the regulation and a list of when each put the control program in place? Would the minister also provide a list of the particular union(s) involved at each company's work place? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

245. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide a list of all the companies in Ontario which are subject to the vinyl chloride regulation, a list of when each has reported as having undertaken the assessment required under the regulation and a list of when each put the control program in place? Would the minister also provide a list of the particular union(s) involved at each company's work place? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

246. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide a list of all the companies in Ontario which are subject to the lead regulation, a list of when each has reported as having undertaken the assessment required under the regulation and a list of when each put the control program in place? Would the minister also provide a list of the particular union(s) involved at each company's work place? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

247. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Labour provide a list of all the companies in Ontario which are subject to the asbestos regulation, a list of when each has reported as having undertaken the assessment required under the regulation and a list of when each put the control program in place? Would the minister also provide a list of the particular union(s)

involved at each company's work place? [Tabled March 27, 1984]

See sessional paper 111.

BICENTENNIAL SPOONS

294. Ms. Copps: Would the Minister of Health advise the House how many spoons were distributed in the bicentennial celebration and what was the per unit cost? How many certificates were distributed and what was the per unit cost? [Tabled April 13, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Per unit cost of spoons, \$5.86; per unit cost of certificates, \$56.87.

The limited-edition certificates, which measure 13 by 10 inches, are individually hand-lettered in either English or French and are framed in a custom-made wooden frame enclosed with plexiglass. Eligible parents who wish to receive the commemorative certificates are allowed to specify some of the information to be hand-lettered on each document.

One hundred and sixty-two spoons and certificates were distributed to April 19, 1984 (out of a

potential distribution of 172).

LAND OWNERSHIP

318. Mr. Swart: Would the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing table a detailed list of the owners of the approximately 7,000 acres of land in the Brampton official plan which are proposed for redesignation from rural to urban uses and which are the subject of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing commencing on or about June 4, 1984? Further, would the minister table a similar detailed list of the owners of the approximately 800 acres of land in Caledon proposed to be changed from rural to urban uses and which are the subject of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing commencing on or about April 30, 1984? [Tabled April 24, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Bennett: This ministry does not have a list of all of the owners in the approximately 7,000-acre area. The information in question is available through the land registry office.

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Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Government Services (Durham West PC)
Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment (Sarnia PC)
Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
Grossman, Hon. L. S., Treasurer and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Jones, T., Deputy Speaker and Chairman (Mississauga North PC)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McCague, Hon. G. R., Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General (Eglinton PC)
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Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
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Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General (Simcoe Centre PC)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier, Minister responsible for Women's Issues and Minister of Energy (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)



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Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, May 28, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 28, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all members of this Legislature to join with me in recognizing and welcoming the Honourable D. H. Mwakawago, Minister of Labour and Manpower for Tanzania, who is in the Speaker's gallery. Mr. Mwakawago is visiting Ontario for discussions with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay).

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: With the indulgence of the House, I wish to call your attention to and have you join with me in welcoming a group of new pages who are going to work along with us for the next few weeks. I ask you to recognize and welcome:

Shareen Barkey, Victoria-Haliburton; Diana Barrigar, Lanark; Derek Bjarnason, Kenora; Daniel Boudria, Prescott-Russell; Catherine Brown, Sarnia; Tracy Cameron, Nickel Belt; Jeff Channell, Mississauga South; Paul Cousens, York Centre; Donna Dobrijevic, York East; Cynthia Fleming, York Centre; Fiona Fuller, Kingston and the Islands; Nyree Gracey, Huron-Bruce; Andy Hamilton, Frontenac-Addington; Darcy Hutzal, Windsor-Sandwich; James Lancefield, Scarborough North; Sophie Luxton, Hamilton West; Marichka Melnick, Humber; Tim Murphy, Peterborough; Scott Roberts, Durham East; David Sly, Prince Edward-Lennox; Shannon Tobin, Fort William; Laura Vasiloff, Mississauga East, and David Verbiwsky, Carleton-Grenville.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the anniversary next week of one of the important events of modern history.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, 40 years ago next Wednesday, Canadian, British, American and Allied forces were engaged in Operation Overlord, the invasion of northwestern Europe and the opening of the second front.

The events of this period are very vividly and interestingly detailed from a Canadian viewpoint in a newly published book, *Bloody Victory*, by Professor J. L. Granatstein of York University and Professor Desmond Morton of the University of Toronto.

I thought today I would quote from that book because why we should remember D-Day and the battle of Normandy is put very well in the preface to that work. I would now like to quote from the preface of this book, *Bloody Victory*.

"The fit young men of the summer of 1944 are 40 years older now. Many of them, old wounds still aching, try to forget battles of long ago; others gather in Legion halls or at regimental reunions to recall good times and departed friends. Though many years have passed, the hurt of those times seems worse because so few Canadians remember.

"In 40 years, two generations of Canadians have grown up without war. The Canadian Armed Forces, so small and ill-equipped, make little impact on Canadian society. The regiments, ships and squadrons, once even in peacetime a focus of community life, have dwindled into obscurity. Few study our military past in schools and universities. Canadians have forgotten how other, older Canadians fought and helped to win the most important war of our century.

"The Normandy campaign of 1944 ranks among the decisive battles of the 20th century and perhaps of western civilization. Hitler's Nazi empire might have been defeated by Stalin's evil regime, but without an Allied victory in Normandy, the Second World War would have destroyed liberal and social democracy in Europe. The terrible gamble of landing on an open and defended shore had to be risked. Allied soldiers had to fight and die in the fields of Normandy so that freedom would prevail.

"In that savage three-month campaign, almost 100,000 Canadians took part. Canadian sailors delivered Canadian soldiers to Juno beach. Canadian airmen bested Hitler's Luftwaffe and became the nemesis of his armoured divisions. Canadians from every part of Canada fought their way ashore, battled the finest soldiers in Europe and won their bloodstained way to the gap below Falaise.

"The history of the Normandy campaign has often been written, but even the best of such books tend to ignore the Canadians, lumping them with the British, occasionally blaming them for their apparent 'slowness' and then revealing in a few feeble bibliographical references the shallowness of the research. Canadians, for their part, have been more or less indifferent. Colonel Charles Stacey's official history, magisterial in scope, judgement and command of both German and Allied sources, remains largely unread. Regimental histories and personal memoirs understandably focus narrowly, and often discreetly, on the experiences of a few of the thousands of the Canadians involved.

"This book"—and here the authors are referring to their book, *Bloody Victory*—"attempts to remind Canadians of their forgotten army in the great Normandy campaign. In that hot summer of 40 years ago, many Canadians went out to fight and die. Over 5,000 of them never returned; 18,000 more suffered wounds of body or mind that transformed or shortened their lives. Because of what they did, the rest of us have known peace and freedom.

"Remembering is the least of the obligations we owe them."

2:10 p.m.

I have just stated the preface to the new book *Bloody Victory*. As it states, remembering is the least of the obligations we owe them. In recognition of this obligation, ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of D-Day will take place in Normandy next week. President Mitterrand of France will be joined by Her Majesty the Queen, President Reagan and Prime Minister Trudeau in commemorating the landings, and they will all be present in Normandy.

Many veterans from Ontario, the regimental and bugle bands of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and the Burlington Teen Tour Band from Burlington, Ontario, will also be present. Each will be participating in various ceremonies on June 6 and during the week.

It will be my proud duty to unveil on June 7, in the city of Caen in Normandy, a bronze plaque presented by the government of Ontario. The inscription on that plaque will read:

"In honour of the men and women of the province of Ontario who served in the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force in the battle of Normandy, 1944. Erected by the government and people of the province of Ontario, Canada, June 7, 1984."

It will also read: "En hommage aux hommes et aux femmes de la province de l'Ontario qui ont servi dans la Marine royale du Canada, l'Armée canadienne et l'Aviation royale du Canada lors de la bataille de Normandie - 1944. Érigée par le gouvernement et le peuple de la province de l'Ontario, Canada, le 7 juin 1984."

Mr. Speaker, the authors of *Bloody Victory*, the book I quoted, are in the Speaker's gallery today, and I thought you might like to acknowledge this: Professor Granatstein, history professor at York University, and Professor Desmond Morton, history professor at the University of Toronto. Also in the gallery is Mr. Malcolm Lester, representing the publishers of the book, Lester and Orpen Dennys Ltd. of Toronto. We are happy to have him present too.

This province and this country, through great effort, played a large part in the liberation of Europe, and I think it is very fitting that we commemorate the service and the sacrifice of the men and women of Ontario who fought in Normandy in 1944.

Mr. Worton: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and honoured to join with the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in the recognition of the 40th anniversary of the landings at Normandy.

Canadians who participated in the D-Day operations knew that freedom and democracy are not negotiable, as did the shock troops at Dieppe, the forces who were evacuated from Dunkirk, the air crews in the Battle of Britain and the prisoners taken in the European and Far Eastern theatres of war.

At this time in our lives, when it seems the balance of power has become a balance of terror, it is particularly fitting to pay tribute to the immense courage and sacrifice of those who 40 years ago helped to turn the tide in the Allied cause. After those early dark days and the terrible years of the Second World War, as we pay tribute to those who wrote a glowing page in history that long summer's day, we would do well to remember that we owe a very special debt, one that can be repaid only if we dedicate all our own courage, integrity and determination to the protection of our people, our country and our way of life.

I hope that in sharing the ceremonies with the members of the Legislature, or at least in having the opportunity to serve them, I do so also for the people of Ontario.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I first of all welcome Professors Granatstein and Des Morton to the House today, as well as the publisher, Malcolm Lester. They

have performed a tremendous service in reminding the people of Ontario once again of the significance of the events of 1944 and in particular the dramatic significance of the decision by the Allied powers to invade occupied France on June 6, 1944.

Much was said in the House when the organizer of the event was here from the French republic. It is appropriate that we again remember the very real connection between the people of this province and the people of France on this historic week.

Two generations of Ontario men and women made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the values that are of such importance to what it means to be a free citizen in the world today. It is with a deep sense of pride and humility that all of us who are alive today pay our respects to the people who fought in France in 1944 and in the First World War.

We bear in mind the words that were read so well by the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), that the least we owe the people who paid that sacrifice is to remember that all of us will be involved in some way or another with the ceremonies that are taking place this weekend, not only in Normandy but also throughout Ontario.

It is important that people for whom war is an experience they have never known, and God willing will never know, remember the extraordinary sacrifice, courage, heroism and dedication that people from all walks of life in this province gave to their fellow citizens 40 short years ago.

CHILD CARE SYSTEM

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, one of the major tasks of my ministry is ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children of this province. We have consistently taken the approach that, whenever possible, the best way of helping children is by providing support and assistance to the family as a whole. In that regard, the ministry is dedicated to offering a comprehensive range of family and child supports which serve to strengthen family life and to assist parents with their child-rearing responsibilities.

For example, we are providing support to families through a variety of children's services such as our prevention projects aimed at teen-aged mothers, our children's mental health day care programs and our infant stimulation programs. We have also traditionally provided support through programs such as our family benefits program. A key function of that

program, as the members know, is to strengthen and support family life by providing financial resources to sole-support parents to allow them to remain at home to care for their young children.

At the same time, we are assisting many of these sole-support parents to break the cycle of welfare dependency and join the work force through our employment support initiatives program. On Tuesday in this House I outlined our plans for expanding this popular program this fiscal year. In April 1984 there were 61,196 sole-support mothers receiving family benefits allowances and caring for 101,286 children.

Still another major way we are providing support to families is through our day nurseries program. It is on that program I want to focus in my statement today.

Our child care system in Ontario has been developed on the basis of the following threefold premise: (1) that children need continuous care; (2) that families often need support and assistance in providing that care, and (3) that families with two working parents have become a fact of life in our society.

Today more than 90,000 children across the province are enrolled in licensed day care spaces in more than 1,900 centres. In partnership with municipalities and with cost-sharing assistance from the federal government through the Canada assistance plan, we will be spending a total of \$115 million on day care in 1984-85.

Over the past two years, we have also provided funding through the day care initiatives program to supplement the number of licensed spaces available. Under that program we have provided capital and operating startup dollars for more than 100 new nonprofit day care centres primarily serving full fee-paying parents and funds for expanding approximately 100 centres.

In all, through this day care initiatives program we have provided funds for more than 4,000 new, full- or part-time licensed spaces. We have also funded 18 new private home day care agencies and provided expansion money to 13 existing agencies.

2:20 p.m.

We recognize, however, that additional child care resources and programs are needed. In response to that demand, my ministry is working to encourage and support the development of a flexible, innovative child care system across Ontario, a system designed to ensure Ontario families have a broader range of child care options available to them.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce a new package of improvements to

Ontario's child care system that is being introduced by my ministry with this aim in mind. These improvements were referred to by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) in his budget speech on Tuesday, May 15. In all, they represent additional spending for my ministry of \$4.8 million for regular child care and \$1.2 million for special child care support.

With these funds, our major thrust will be to provide more formal licensed subsidized spaces; to provide additional regular full-fee licensed spaces; to develop new rural child care resource centres to provide support to parents and informal day care providers; to expand child care projects developed under our employment support initiatives program, and to expand our support for work place day care centres.

First of all, we will be providing 1,500 additional formal licensed subsidized spaces to communities across the province to augment the 25,000 subsidized spaces we are already funding. We will be notifying municipalities shortly about the allocation of those spaces, which will substantially relieve pressure on their waiting lists. In addition, we will continue to develop new full-fee licensed spaces to increase the number of children being served through the regular day care system, which now serves in excess of 90,000 children.

We also plan to improve our child care support system in rural areas by developing new rural child care resource centres to provide support and information to parents and informal child care providers. This ministry has, for some time now, recognized the need for a good system of flexible child care in the more rural areas of Ontario. Over the past few years, we have made significant gains towards achieving that goal.

In particular, through our day care initiatives program introduced in 1981, we have put a real effort into enhancing informal child care arrangements in rural and urban communities across the province. Since 1981, we have provided financial assistance to over 100 informal child support services, over 40 per cent of those in rural and semi-rural areas.

Let me briefly outline some of the services funded through this program. They include child care registries to help a parent in selecting quality child day care; toy and equipment lending libraries that may be community-based or mobile, and drop-in centres where both parents and caregivers can meet and share child care concerns. We could almost call this the beginning of a real networking system.

These various services have been sponsored by many different groups such as local libraries, municipalities, existing day care centres, community colleges, women's centres and the like. According to our most up-to-date information, an additional 24,000 children and 20,000 parents and caregivers have benefited from these services.

Under the new package of improvements I am introducing today, we will be providing funds to expand and build on these services in rural areas right across the province, a reinforcement of our commitment to serving rural areas. At the same time, as part of our effort to enhance the quality of informal day care arrangements, we will be issuing a handbook called *A Guide for Home Day Care Providers*. This reference book provides practical information to assist caregivers in making sure the children they care for have a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and learn.

While I am on the subject of informal child care, I might add we will also continue to encourage both urban and rural communities to support the development of informal child care arrangements in their own areas. I am referring now particularly to those nine municipalities that are testing the employment support initiatives program and the new communities that will be taking part. This way, I believe, we will ensure that we have a truly balanced child care system across the province.

At the same time, as part of our plans to expand the employment support initiatives program, we will also be funding additional child care projects developed through this program as support for social assistance recipients who are preparing to return to work.

During 1983-84, we allocated close to \$2 million for day care projects within the nine communities testing this program. Prior to the Treasurer's announcement, we had already allocated over \$3 million for day care projects in these same communities. In addition to that, we will now be allocating considerably more funds to cover the enrichment and expansion to the employment support initiatives program that will be carried out over this fiscal year.

As another major thrust under this new package of improvements announced today, we will be expanding our support for work place child care centres in selected areas across Ontario. Over the past three years, we have supported the introduction of work place day care centres. Now we will be making additional funds available to assist in the development and startup

of seven new work place day care centres in selected municipalities and work places.

I should add that my staff will be working closely with the Ontario women's directorate under my colleague the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch) as well as some other ministries in implementing the initiatives I have outlined today. My staff, along with the staff of the women's directorate, will be approaching employers about setting up on-site work place day care centres.

I believe the improvements I am announcing today will help to bring us considerably closer to achieving that province-wide comprehensive, flexible child care system I spoke of earlier. At the same time they are an indication of my ministry's commitment to ensuring that all the children in this province, both in rural and in urban areas, receive the kind of quality care they need to grow and thrive.

THEATRES AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, in view of the growing public concern about the negative effects on our society of exploitive film and video productions, I am pleased today to introduce for first reading the Theatres Amendment Act, 1984.

Let there be no doubt among the members of this House that the purveyors of porn would be delighted to see us turn our backs on the question of basic and decent community standards. The citizen members of the Ontario Board of Censors have played a key role in the effort to keep our communities from developing their own miniature versions of New York City's Times Square.

A minority of critics in this province have tried to depict the board as an outdated vestige of the past bent on forcing its particular view of reality on to the population at large. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The issue is not one of the film and video pornographer's right to exploit the market by producing and selling anything he likes, but rather the right of a community to protect itself from the effects of his work. I can assure members that this government has no intention of allowing exploitive and often violent material to undermine the values of our society.

As the members are aware, the Ontario Theatres Act has been and is being challenged before the courts on very specific grounds. These amendments are intended to deal with the courts' concerns and to prescribe by law the standards to be applied by the board in carrying out its work.

More specifically, the amendments will allow us to establish by regulation the general

community standards reflected in the guidelines used by the board in recent years. These standards are neither arbitrary nor repressive. In fact, most people would view them as being flexible while still maintaining a generally accepted standard based on a community consensus.

Guidelines reflecting these standards have been widely distributed in brochure form to theatres, community groups, libraries and schools over the past few years. Historically, informal feedback from the community, along with surveys of public attitudes, have allowed the board periodically to reassess its guidelines to determine whether they continue to reflect the attitudes of the vast majority of Ontario citizens.

The courts have ruled that the standards applied by the board should be codified to comply with the Charter of Rights. These amendments will meet that requirement by providing for the application of community standards, which will now be prescribed by regulation. In addition, the four film classifications now in use will be described in detail in the act.

These amendments will also formalize the appeal process for film distributors that has been used informally by the board since 1981. Under this system a distributor's appeal of a board decision will result in a prompt rescreening of the film in question by a new panel of board members, none of whom took part in the original screening of the film. Experience has shown this to be an effective way for film distributors to obtain a final ruling on their product.

The government has always been concerned about violence, degrading and often violent pornography and the sexual exploitation of children. This concern has been heightened by the rapidly expanding distribution of videotape cassettes. This has become increasingly serious over the last year, with numerous instances reported of pornography being sold or rented to consumers who simply wanted general family entertainment. There have been further reports of this material being sold or rented to children.

Of particular concern is the almost complete lack of information available to consumers regarding the contents of a particular tape. What the consumer thought was a tape that could be shown to the entire family has often contained sexual or violent material that no responsible parent would want his children to see.

2:30 p.m.

Accordingly, further amendments contained in this legislation will deal directly with these

problems by bringing commercially distributed videotapes intended for home use under the authority of the Theatres Act. Tapes will be approved and classified in the same manner used for films distributed for public exhibition at present. In addition, videotape retailers and distributors will be licensed under the act, as is now the case with movie theatres and motion picture distributors.

With the passage of this bill, consumers will be able to determine the suitability of a particular videotape by the presence of a sticker bearing one of the already well recognized film classification symbols, that is, family, parental guidance advised, adult accompaniment required under age 14 and restricted to persons 18 years of age or over.

As is currently the practice with films, each videotape submitted for approval will be judged on its own merits. Eliminations or cuts may be requested, however, as a precondition of approval if certain scenes are considered by the board to contravene the guidelines prescribed in regulation. Certain amendments will allow the overall size of the board to be enlarged to better represent the diverse community and regional interests of this province.

Finally, the name of the board will be changed to the Ontario Film Review Board to better reflect the board's primary role in screening and classifying films.

ACQUISITION OF JOHN ROBARTS'S PAPERS

Hon. Ms Fish: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the Archives of Ontario, which is part of my ministry, has recently acquired the personal papers of the former Premier of Ontario, John Robarts. This very extensive and historically significant collection of letters, political treatises, clippings, business papers and photographs represents nearly 40 years in the life of Mr. Robarts.

The papers begin during the Second World War with letters to his parents and continue in the 1950s with recollections of his years as the MPP from London and the Minister of Education. They cover his 10 years as the Premier of Ontario, from 1961 to 1971, and also include recollections of the Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto, of which he was chairman, and his co-chairmanship of the Pepin-Robarts federal task force, both in the 1970s. The collection ends with business and personal

papers written in the period just before his death two years ago.

In addition to the letters, files and clippings donated to the archives by Mr. Robarts's widow, Katherine, the collection includes some unusual bits of memorabilia. A yellow jacket, used as part of the 1961 election campaign, has survived with the written record, as have several photographs of Mr. Robarts engaging in one of his favourite pastimes, fishing, and cartoons and paintings of Mr. Robarts as Premier.

This significant documentation of the life of a great Canadian joins other valuable collections acquired by the archives since its founding in 1903. It is through the work of archivists that we are able to preserve and share the many pieces that make up our impressive heritage. In adding the Robarts papers to its already vast collection, the Archives of Ontario ensures the preservation of this valuable part of our history.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, last Friday I replied to questions raised by honourable members arising from a news report concerning spray painters at Mack Canada Inc. in Oakville. Following my reply, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) asked further questions concerning the effects of lead exposure on the workers in question.

Let me begin by repeating that since 1981 all workers potentially affected by lead in the spray painting operation have had their blood lead levels monitored pursuant to a medical surveillance procedure established under the provision of our laws and have had annual medical examinations. All worker blood tests have been below the action level in the regulation.

My officials have reviewed the blood lead levels of workers tested over the past three and a half years. These levels compare with those found among the normal population. All were found to be below or about 0.2 milligrams of lead per litre of blood. The action level set out in the medical surveillance code of the lead regulation for the removal of nonpregnant workers is 0.7 milligrams per litre.

I find these results reassuring. They indicate that the combination of engineering controls, work practices and hygiene practices and facilities, and the wearing of respirators have protected the health of workers.

The Leader of the Opposition suggested last Friday that the workers at Mack Canada should draw little comfort from these normal lead levels. He contended that lead accumulates over a long

time at different rates in different parts of the body. Based on this, he gave his opinion that at this point, it is impossible to make a clear determination whether there has been a health threat.

I believe the Leader of the Opposition has drawn the wrong conclusion from the facts at hand. Physicians in the special studies and services branch of my ministry advise that the blood lead levels found in the Mack workers do not indicate an increased body burden of lead. The highest reading found is below the level considered hazardous for children, who are more sensitive to lead than adults.

Lead is not like asbestos or vinyl chloride, which are carcinogens and from which we assume the smallest dose carries some risk. There is a level for lead below which it will not be stored in the body. The blood lead levels of these workers have been significantly below this level. Should blood lead levels in a worker begin to rise, provisions in the lead regulation would result in steps being taken to review and, if necessary, reduce the worker's exposure so that his blood lead would return to an acceptable level.

In other words, contrary to the assertion of the Leader of the Opposition that the biological effect of all lead exposures is cumulative, the worker blood lead results at Mack Canada indicate there should be no cumulative storage of lead in the body.

ORAL QUESTIONS

THEATRES AMENDMENT BILL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding the introduction of his bill and his statement today. I suspect most members of the House will agree with the general thrust of his remarks, so we can start the discussion of the implementation of this new thrust. We are glad the minister has finally come to this point of view.

As a former lawyer and one sensitive to civil liberties, I am sure the minister recognizes certain problems arise any time one encroaches on fundamental freedoms in this country, especially the freedom of speech and expression. Would the minister not agree with me, since communally we would agree to do it, that the most sensitive way to do it would be through an open and accountable system such as a select committee of members of this House? Such a committee could develop the regulations in public, subject to influences from various parts of the community in developing those regula-

tions and standards. Would he not agree with me that is a better process, a better way to develop community standards than to leave it to nameless, faceless bureaucrats who are not directly accountable to the people of Ontario?

Would the minister consider that approach? I feel it is essentially nonpartisan. I am sure there are a number of members of this House from all parties who would agree with that point of view and would sit down this summer and wrestle with the difficult problems of forming community standards. Would he agree to that kind of approach in his amendments?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I had assumed from remarks made during the past few weeks that this was, in essence, a nonpartisan issue. Therefore, I must confess some degree of surprise when the Leader of the Opposition talks about our new thrust and says we are finally doing something.

I would have to say with the greatest of respect that party has just joined the ship. They are welcome aboard, but let us not have any more of the game playing. If this is truly to be looked upon as a nonpartisan issue, let us end the games today. I have not been involved in them, so let neither of us start it.

With respect to the issue of freedom of speech, that clearly is a matter that has been discussed in detail in the court. I know the member will have had some familiarity with that judgement.

2:40 p.m.

The issue here is that in a free and democratic society, the Supreme Court of Ontario has said that whatever a government does in this area must be reasonable and must be prescribed in law. Those are the steps we are endeavouring to take with these amendments. With the charter still there, those steps we take are always subject to review and supervision by the court on application by individuals who feel the proposals are not reasonable and are not prescribed. I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that is exactly what we are doing.

With respect to how the regulations regarding the standards will be achieved, we have endeavoured over the years to draw our guidelines from community responses and a review of the sociological literature. We will be going through the same process as we establish the regulations that will deal with the guidelines.

The point I think the Leader of the Opposition has not noted is there is a requirement in the act that an annual report be tabled in this Legislature. The report, as he knows, may be referred to a

committee of this Legislature for review, study and discussion. I think that is an appropriate mechanism that answers the real concerns he has raised.

Mr. Peterson: The minister has not answered the question. He has chosen to launch a political defence, and that is his prerogative.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Let me ask the question again because I think it is important and serious. Most ministries and agencies have an annual report, so that does not cut much ice with me. I will try to make my point again as to whether the minister will consider this approach rather than forming these standards, as he does, with polls and secret kinds of sociological reports. Given that we are encroaching on essential liberties, why would he not establish that process in the open so that those who feel we have gone too far as legislators can come and make representations in public?

We can have a discussion about what those community standards are. Does the minister not think it would be far more healthy to bring the process out into the open, rather than the current system of doing it by way of polls or by way of nameless, faceless bureaucrats who are not ultimately accountable? I hope the minister will answer the question this time. Would that not be a better way to proceed?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I thought I answered that clearly. The obligation of a government is to govern and, in so doing, it will determine regulations that are appropriate to the statute that is being proposed. Those regulations are made public and they are subject to review by the courts and to questions by members of the opposition in this Legislature.

The honourable member is in error with respect to an annual report. There was no requirement in the previous act for an annual report. That is new and it is a report that can be referred to the Legislature's committee for discussion. He should not try to brush it off as nothing. We are glad to have him aboard on this issue finally. Let us stop playing games about it.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, nowhere in the minister's statement does he refer explicitly to the board cutting, chopping, snipping and clipping films. Unless I have missed something, my understanding is that he is saying it better reflects the board's primary role in screening and classifying films.

Is the minister satisfied that the Court of Appeal's judgement with respect to the earlier activities of the Ontario Board of Censors—now

to be renamed the Ontario Film Review Board—which made a very basic decision with respect to the relationship between parts of the charter and provincial legislation, can be readily met by the legislation he is putting forward?

Would he be prepared to table any and all legal opinions that lead him to take that view and which the government has been relying upon to bring in this legislation? It was the government's submission to the court, both at the trial level and at the Court of Appeal level, that the censor board had certain powers which the court determined it did not have.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, the member is in error in saying there was no reference to the board's continuing role with respect to the application of eliminations of scenes that are not within the community standards. If he would like me to read out a list of them, I would be glad to, but I know he would share the same view I do about them, so I am not going to bother with that.

Clearly, I am not going to table any documents with respect to legal opinions we have received. That matter is still before the courts. We are proceeding with this act on the basis of the best advice we can obtain.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Speaker, I think there is really more to this issue than censorship when we talk about community standards. No doubt the minister has noted I have a resolution on Orders and Notices, which we will be discussing on Thursday. This resolution includes videotapes, along with books and magazines, and urges all municipalities to pass bylaws restricting the location of pornographic material in open display. I would like to ask the minister if he would be ready and willing to support that resolution on Thursday.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I must confess to a certain amount of mixed emotion here. I have known the member for many years. I have a great deal of respect for him, even though he did not play basketball very well. I commend him for his efforts in bringing forth a very important issue and I will be pleased to take part in and listen to those discussions. I commend him for the efforts he has made in bringing that matter forward.

GRANGE COMMISSION INQUIRY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General arising from the reported remarks of his speech on Sunday at the Beth Sholom Synagogue. I understand it is his view the media have deliberately distorted—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: That is nonsense.

Mr. Peterson: I read the press reports. The minister can stand up and defend himself in this House.

As I read the newspapers, I understand the minister's view is that the media have deliberately distorted the proceedings at the Grange commission and that the truth is not coming out in that regard. I would like to know the Attorney General's opinion on that matter. Is that his view? Does he believe the truth is not coming out in the matter?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I can tell the distinguished Leader of the Opposition that his distortion of my remarks is not going to save his bacon with the media. They can see through him as clearly as we can. That happens to be the truth.

I said no such thing about any deliberate distortion by the media. The member knows full well that was not stated nor was it reported. The fact of the matter is, in discussing the issues in relation to the Grange commission, I said one of the unfortunate impressions that had been created was that the Grange commission had focused solely, or almost entirely, on the role of the nurses.

Judging by my correspondence, and I have had hundreds of letters, the impression was created that the nurses had been subjected to very careful scrutiny, whereas the doctors and medical staff had not been. I said this was simply by reason of the fact, particularly with television being such a powerful medium, that the 18 doctors who were called before any nurses gave evidence did not attract much attention in the media. The wrong impression was created that they had not been subjected to the scrutiny the nurses had. Understandably, there was some public concern about the fairness of the process.

At no time did I say anybody in the media had deliberately distorted anything. I simply pointed out, in the context of television in courtrooms, that given the very serious and restricted time frame any television network has for reporting the news on any one topic, it presented a very significant challenge for any television producer to give a comprehensive picture.

It was a very moderate discussion of the issues, in relation to television in particular, involved in courtroom inquiries. For the member to stand up here and make a misstatement such as that, I do not think—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I thank the Attorney General.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Would the Attorney General agree with me that some of his agents caused the most spectacular and sensational events at that inquiry, for example, a counsel asking a witness if she would take truth serum? How would the Attorney General like me to stand up in this House and ask him if he would like to take truth serum. How does that put the onus back on him? Why has he chosen to speak up now, after the fact, and how is he going to avoid the impression that there is going to be any kind of less evenhanded media covering of the second part, phase 2?

How can the Attorney General avoid the impression that there is any intimidation of the media when that committee is now looking into the second phase, the conduct of the Attorney General and his agents at that inquiry?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The media tried very hard to give a comprehensive picture of what was going on in that inquiry, but there are difficulties, which I have mentioned, and that is going to continue to be their role.

Mr. Justice Grange, in permitting television into the inquiry, was clearly motivated by his desire to give the public as much access as possible to this inquiry because it appeared to be in the public interest to do so. I assume the television cameras will be present during the second stage of the inquiry, which we have done everything within our power to assure continues.

Certainly, the accountability of the police officers or the crown attorney's office is something that is going to be under careful media scrutiny. We were well aware of that when we established the royal commission in the first place.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General's remarks came through to me as a relatively scattergun and not very precise criticism of the media, using the term "media" in a very generalized sense. Was he, in any way, speaking about the reports of Mr. Ted Bissland on Canadian Broadcasting Corp. radio and television or was he reflecting on the CBC television half-hour documentary which took place a few weeks ago or specifically on Roger's Cable with respect to the late-night review of the proceedings at the Grange commission?

Could the Attorney General be more specific when he is levelling this kind of criticism against the electronic media?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, as the member for Riverdale fully knows, and his efforts to trivialize the issue are not going to

change the fact, the issue of television in courtrooms and inquiries is a very difficult issue because of the obvious time limitations any network faces. This is very much the subject of current discussion, and I expect it will be the subject of public debate for some time to come.

If the member feels it is appropriate, because the Attorney General of this province is prepared to stand up and discuss these issue publicly, to attempt to turn that into a scattergun attack on the media, I say to him that is a very irresponsible approach to a very complex issue.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, since the Attorney General is so obviously concerned about distortions and about the coverage, intended or otherwise, and since he is so obviously concerned about the nurses, in particular, being disadvantaged by this coverage, how does the chief law officer for this province feel about and how would he care to comment about it, given his now stated concern about delicacy, when an agent of his own department, at one of the most critical and sensitive junctures in this first phase of this most sensitive inquiry, suggested that perhaps one the nurses might have her testimony improved if she ingested some truth serum?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, that is not the context in which that comment was made and the member knows that. The lawyers that have represented the Ministry of the Attorney General at this commission have done their very best to act in the public interest at all times.

FOREST REGENERATION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. It concerns the very disturbing report Mr. George Marek has recently completed on the wood supply situation, the treatment of wood and the regeneration policies of his ministry.

Mr. Marek himself has stated, "The district staff quite casually admitted that the situation in the bush was quite different from the situation shown in the records." That is his statement saying that what is happening in the field is very different from the official story that is being told by the ministry.

Would the minister be prepared to commission and have carried out an independent audit of the wood supply situation in Ontario to determine exactly what the situation is? One of his most senior foresters, one of the most respected and outspoken foresters in Ontario, has said the official situation is not the real situation.

Is the minister at this late juncture finally going to be prepared to carry out the kind of

investigation, the kind of public audit that will give the public of Ontario the facts it needs in order to determine what the future is going to be for the north?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I have read Mr. Marek's reports and subsequent press reports appropriately presented with respect to a study that, by the way, I and the deputy minister asked him to do. Knowing his predisposition on these matters, we wanted a person of—

Mr. Martel: Give us the real figures.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Pope: I want to reiterate that the minister and the deputy minister asked Mr. Marek to do this work for us; we wanted to have him report directly to us, as he did, with some specific recommendations.

I do not take the gist of his comments to direct themselves to what is available in the woods. I think he was expressing some concern about harvesting techniques. He was addressing some concern about the stocking success of the Ministry of Natural Resources reforestation efforts over a period of some years during which he had responsibility for reforestation and for forest production matters in the Nipigon district.

He made those comments to us; I am aware of the press release. I am also aware that the New Democratic Party reviewed the wood supply situation last fall, even though the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) has denied it in subsequent interviews, and they came to the conclusion themselves with all the available information that there was no wood supply crisis in Ontario.

Mr. Martel: That is not so.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Pope: That is so. It is on page 3 of your report, and I will quote from it in just one second.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: Perhaps the minister can tell us, if he commissioned this report, why Mr. Marek would write when he is talking about access to certain areas: "Access to many of the areas was not possible because of the isolation and general location of the area. The use of a helicopter was out of the question; none were available. As well, requests for aircraft were made on several occasions, but in vain."

If this report was commissioned by the minister or the deputy minister, and if the minister was really determined to get at the situation and to allow Mr. Marek to do the kind of study he is so eminently well qualified to do, why

did the minister deny him the ability to get around and see exactly what was happening? Every time he managed to get where he wanted to go, he found the situation in the bush was quite different from the official story that has been laid on us by the Ministry of Natural Resources for a very long time.

Specifically, why was Mr. Marek denied access to things he requested; when access to an aircraft, for example, would have made it possible for him to do the kind of study the minister says he is interested in getting?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Pope: If the honourable member is saying that Mr. Marek did not do an adequate study, I disagree with him. He knows full well that at the time he was engaged in the study, the helicopter aircraft were being used for other problems that were current in northwestern Ontario.

Mr. Martel: For ever.

Hon. Mr. Pope: The member does not know anything about it really.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Pope: The gist of the question of the leader of the third party had to do with an audit of wood supply. I quote from page 5 of the New Democratic Party report of last fall: "From our investigation to date we have concluded that our wood supply problem is really a number of interrelated problems caused not so much by an absolute shortage of trees or wood fibre. We are really facing a number of problems...." It talks about "utilization rates," "availability of the desired species," "age and size of the available trees" and "the quality and quantity of products being produced."

The NDP admits the problem is not a shortage of wood. That is not the problem. They said there is not a shortage of available wood and they agree with our conclusion—

Mr. Stokes: What kind of wood.

Mr. Rae: What kind of wood? What is the quality of the second forest?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the minister please resume his seat. Supplementary; the member for Halton-Burlington.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, the estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources are proceeding at the present time. For the third set of estimates in a row, both the Natural Resources critic of the third party and I have asked the minister whether he would produce his senior officials and

bureaucrats to answer the serious questions. One such question has been raised today, and there are many others, as the minister realizes. Will he give an undertaking to the Legislature that he will produce Mr. Marek or other senior officials who are directly connected with the conclusions drawn in that report so they can be thrashed out in public once and for all?

What is the minister trying to hide? For the third set of estimates in a row he has shown up in the committee room with only his deputy. The opposition has complained most vocally about this on each occasion. Here is the minister's opportunity to clear up these problems and to stand up and agree to do the statesmanlike thing. Will he produce Mr. Marek?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I refer the honourable member to the comments of his colleague the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) last Thursday night. This is a political forum. Estimates are a political exercise. The estimates of the ministry indicate the policies and priorities of the ministry, and the member is here to debate the policies and priorities of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

I am responsible to this Legislature for the conduct and actions of the ministry and every employee in it. I answered the questions last year. We had a full debate last November and December on reforestation. I pinned their ears back and I will do it again.

Mr. Rae: The minister makes Louis XVI look like a democrat in comparison to the attitudes he is expressing about his ministry and towards his domain in the north.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: I would like to deal with the direct question of supply since the minister has raised it. Mr. Marek has dealt with it very directly. The question is not whether there are leaves and bark in the north; that is not the issue, and the minister knows that perfectly well. Mr. Marek makes that perfectly clear. What is at stake is the kind of trees, the kind of species, what they are going to be used for and what the quality of the regeneration is. The substance of the Marek report is that the quality of the second forest is not up to scratch in comparison to the great boreal forests of the past.

What is the minister doing about that? Why is he afraid of an independent audit to get at the question of what kinds of species there are, how close they are to the mills and what will be the impact of the degeneration of the second forest on the future of jobs in the north. What is he so afraid of?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I am not afraid of anything. We have had our third set of estimates. We have fully debated all the reforestation issues with NDP representatives. The member should read the Hansards of last November and December. He should read the Hansard transcripts of the estimates going on now. Full debate will be taking place there. I am available to answer all the questions. I answered the questions last year, although they did not like the answers. We are prepared to answer all the questions again this year.

What are we doing about it? In 1981, when I became minister, we were planting 80 million seedlings in this province. This year we are planting 150 million. That is almost a 100 per cent increase. What am I doing about it? When I became minister in 1981 we were spending \$99 million on forest management; that has gone up by 60 per cent over the last two years.

What am I doing about it? The Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and the Premier (Mr. Davis) made reforestation a financial priority of this government, and money is going to forest management agreements to put all-weather access roads in place so we can improve our reforestation efforts. Everyone else in North America recognizes the progress we have made.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Here we go again on lead.

Despite his statement today, is the minister aware that in June 1982—and I am talking about Mack Canada—the joint health and safety committee requested the ministry to conduct lead tests, but the area supervisor, Mr. Bergie, refused? So much for the internal responsibility system; it did not work.

Is the minister further aware that in February 1984, Mr. Gallant requested engineering controls at the plant? It was suggested to Mr. Gallant that he put his concerns in the joint health and safety committee minutes.

Is the minister also aware that two months after this request, when the company was supposed to respond to the request for engineering controls and the company failed, Mr. Gallant approached Mr. Bergie again? Mr. Gallant advised him of the company's failure to respond and Mr. Bergie told him to file an appeal.

Finally, is the minister aware that when ministry officials were sent in by Mr. Bergie, they tested for air velocity and not for levels or removal of lead?

Throughout this two-and-a-half-year period, why did Mr. Bergie move, not to assist the workers, but rather to stymie their efforts, as he did at Westinghouse?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe Mr. Bergie tried to stymie the efforts of the workers at Mack Canada.

Mr. Martel: Two and a half years later, there is nothing done to prove that he has assisted them.

After two and a half years with the lead regulations in effect, why are those workers not protected by controls? Controls are required by the lead regulations. Why has no one in the ministry determined the cost and feasibility of controls?

The position the minister presented last Friday deals with a ventilation system that was installed in 1975, prior to lead being introduced. The smokescreen the minister has presented today implies that the workers' blood level should be the monitor to which the act and the controls apply. Should the regulations not be applied as they exist, first and foremost via controls?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The honourable member opposite raises a good point. The reason I presented the statement this afternoon was in response to what I thought were legitimate concerns that I was not able to answer immediately.

One of those concerns was the level of lead in these workers as compared to the level of lead in the member's body or in my body. On the basis of quite legitimate questions, I took it upon myself to find out. I found out that all the workers were found to be below or about 0.2 milligrams of lead per litre of blood. The action level set out in the medical surveillance code of the lead regulation for the removal of nonpregnant workers is 0.7 milligrams per litre.

I am trying to emphasize for the peace of mind of those workers at Mack and other areas where workers are exposed to lead that they can be confident their health is not at risk. That is the point I am trying to make.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding from the minister's statement last week that one of the critical concerns with respect to the kind of protection the workers had was the nature and quality of the filtering system in the masks they were using.

It was also my understanding that we were going to get a statement from the minister this week—and I assumed he meant today—as to precisely when the company had introduced the upgraded mask that was a better protection. I do

not recall that being mentioned in the minister's statement today.

The minister seems to make it very clear that the quality of the protection is something he is equally interested in. Can he bring us up to date on that issue?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent question. The new respirators, despite an order being issued, did not go into service until today. I am upset by that fact, and we are seriously considering taking appropriate action.

But let me go back again, because this gets to the crux of the question: were the workers at risk or were they not? When one takes into account that the lead paint was being used in a controlled setting rather than, for example, using the end of a warehouse—it was in a paint booth that had—

Mr. Martel: The construction was in 1975.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Regardless of when the construction was, it was in a controlled setting with proper air filtration and ventilation in that setting. Respirators were being used; even though the respirators were not as good as we had hoped they would be, they were adequate respirators. The results are there in the testing that has been done; the workers were not at risk. As of today, they will have the improved respirators, and that will provide even greater confidence to them that their health is not at risk.

Mr. Martel: The minister knows full well that his staff collapsed on its fanny, because just a year ago we went through the whole Wilco situation, as the minister will recall, where some 20 workers—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Martel: —suffered from lead poisoning. Is the minister not aware that at that time, with proper investigation, the air control masks were ordered; that a year later he is now ordering airstream masks in another company and he is still trying to use the blood levels as the monitoring factor? Surely the minister will agree that we have to apply the regulations and that the only solution is to engineer the problems out. When is he going to make sure that engineering occurs in that plant instead of using a 1975 model where lead was not even being used at the time?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: It is almost like old times having the member for Sudbury East back asking the occupational health and safety questions. I do not mean that as a shot; I mean that as a compliment. The member for Sudbury East is in my estimation an expert on occupational health

and safety matters in this province. He has been a crusader and a worker in that respect now for many more years than I have been.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: But.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: There are no buts. I just want to give credit where credit is due.

Mr. Martel: The minister is just trying to seduce me.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Just lie back and enjoy it.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the answer.

Mr. Rae: This is the kind of thing that can happen in private but not in public; this is embarrassing. Is there not something about persistent importuning in the House, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: However—
Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: No, there are no howevers. That again is a good question.

My understanding is that orders were issued on February 17, 1984, regarding the respirators; that was after the representative of the union complained to the ministry officials that, in his opinion, the respirators being used were not adequate. The ministry officials went in and agreed with the union, contrary to the oft-made point by the member for Sudbury East that the inspectors always side with management. This was not the case at all. The inspectors sided with the union and with the workers; as a result, the new respirators were ordered.

As I said, I am upset about the fact that the new respirators were not put into service as quickly as they should have been, and we will be taking the appropriate measures.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that it took more than three months after the orders were written before they were actually used.

DAY CARE

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Two weeks ago, York region told the parents of 25 school-age children that it would not be subsidizing day care for those kids this summer because of a shortage of money. The minister will know that it has been two years since the region received any increase in day care funding, and despite indications to York three weeks ago from his deputy that there would be help in the budget, the region has not been told it is getting any of the 1,500 additional subsidized spaces to help reduce the waiting list of nearly 500 in that region.

Is the minister going to give the region of York funding to correct this immediate problem and is he going to help reduce the waiting list? When is he going to tell the region and the parents of those who are concerned and assure them this problem has been solved?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, on the basis of the statement I made at two o'clock today, there will be negotiations with York between now and June 15 concerning space. Second, it was not my decision to stop funding that summer camp. The region of York, very clearly and plainly, decided it wanted to put its priorities elsewhere. That is exactly what happened. I guess the honourable member wants me to overrule the region of York.

Mr. Wrye: If the region does not have any money and if it has not received an increase in funding, it is put in a bit of a bind.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wrye: The minister said of the employment support initiatives: "Our clients prefer employment to social assistance. The work ethic is alive, well and prospering." That was in the minister's statement last Tuesday. It is not prospering in York region where 25 sole-support parents who are now in the work force may have to go back on social assistance if the ministry does not take action to ensure their children get adequate day care.

When is the ministry going to sit down with the region of York and work something out so it has adequate funding, not only to get the 500 who are now on the waiting list off the list but also to ensure that we do not add 25 new names? When is the minister going to sit down with the region of York and work something out so it is not having to rob Peter to pay Paul?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I thought I made it very clear. I said we were negotiating between now and June 15. I just said that a moment ago. I realize this question was typed out, but I thought I was pretty clear when I said that.

C. H. LEWIS LAND FILL SITE

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The minister is no doubt familiar with the C. H. Lewis landfill site in Lucan. The minister is aware that in an appeal of a ministry condition on its operating licence the operators of that landfill site went to the Environmental Appeal Board. The appeal board was so appalled by the testimony it heard during the hearing that it not only turned down the appeal but also ordered the dump site closed.

The history of this landfill site has been one of not only ignoring the ministry's regulations but also blatantly exceeding its licence on a continuing basis. Why is the minister allowing that site to continue to operate while this appeal is ongoing?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat of an oversimplification to suggest that the ministry is allowing the site to continue to operate. The reality is that the appeal board, which the honourable member mentioned, directed the site to be closed, and that order is now being challenged before the courts. The question now is whether, as a minister, I should interfere in the process. It is a legal process in which the site owner is taking issue with the order issued by the appeal board. That matter is still being reviewed by me and by my ministry staff.

The reality is that we have not allowed the site to remain open, but the matter is under active appeal. I have yet to come to a decision about whether there should be some further intervention on my part. That is a possibility, and it is under review.

Mr. Charlton: The minister is obviously aware of the kinds of problems found at that site, which had been operated without due regard for public health and safety. I have pictures here showing a number of hogs roaming at will over that site, rummaging through and eating garbage. God knows what is contained in the garbage they may be eating. These hogs likely will be marketed publicly here in Ontario.

If the minister is not prepared to stop the operation of that site based on the history of its operation and the way in which the operator has flouted regulation, what extraordinary action is the minister prepared to take on an ongoing basis to ensure the kinds of things that have gone on at this site do not happen while it continues to operate?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am not pleased with the operations of that site at the present time. The honourable member is absolutely correct in saying that some of the activities that are taking place at present on this particular site are far less than acceptable. I do share his concern, but I have to fall back on my earlier answer in which I indicated that the matter is before the courts. There are some concerns on my part and on the part of my ministry's staff as to whether or not it would be appropriate for me to intervene before the court brings down a decision with respect to the appeal it is currently considering.

I have the matter under consideration; I can tell the member nothing further than that. At present, as our ministry stands, we are not allowing the site to remain open but the matter is tied up in the courts. I can only assure the member that I have the same concerns he does and I will get back to him with respect to whether or not we make a decision before the court comes in with a final answer on the matter.

FAIR EXCHANGE RATES

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. With the spring and summer tourism industry getting into high gear, I would like to ask a question with regard to the "We treat you royally" campaign.

The minister will recall that I asked him in the House some time ago about the fact that the Toronto Transit Commission was not refunding a fair exchange to American tourists. I believe that in spite of the high rate of exchange, the TTC is awarding them a rate of only 15 per cent. What steps has the minister taken to stop this ripoff of American tourists by the TTC?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I hope our "Ontario—yours to discover!" campaign is affecting the honourable member's party over there today. I hope they are all out discovering Ontario; there are not very many in the House today.

Anyway, we are very much aware of the fact—the member has used the word "ripoff"; I think it might be a bit strong—that the TTC is not honouring the exchange rates of the day. We have taken up discussions with them and we will continue them. At this point certainly I, along with many others, really feel the TTC ought to correct its policies and offer a fair rate of exchange.

As the member knows, at all of our border crossing points, in our tourist information offices—and we just opened a new one the other day in the area of Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines—we do have currency exchange bureaux, where the official rate is offered. But the matter of the TTC not offering a fair exchange rate is a point of concern and one we hope to correct.

Mr. Eakins: Can the minister inform this House what other steps are being taken to revive the "We treat you royally" campaign, which I think was an excellent campaign, but which has been left in limbo in the last number of years? Since good hospitality is important to this province, what steps is he taking to reinstitute the

program, which I think was excellent in the beginning?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: There are places across Ontario, it is a local option, where they still use the "We treat you royally" slogan. It did serve its purpose; it continues to serve its purpose. Frankly we feel the new campaign slogan "Ontario—yours to discover!" is far more effective, and we do not want to introduce two slogans.

As I was very honoured to be able to announce to the House on Friday morning, the "Ontario—yours to discover!" ad campaign has won the highly prestigious Clio award. The member opposite was ready to support that and I know he was very serious about it. "We treat you royally" continues to be the slogan for some of the local visitors' bureaux. For instance, Guelph still uses "We treat you royally" and there are a few others that do so as well. We think we have a winner in "Ontario—yours to discover!"

TAR SPILL

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Is the minister aware of the spill of better than 1.25 million gallons of tar at Stelco last evening? This spill now covers an area of more than a half mile by a quarter mile of the tracks and has stopped the trains from being able to pull the hot loads out of the blast furnaces. As a result, they have had to shut them down.

Can the minister tell us what he knows about the maintenance on that operation? How could a spill of this size have taken place? Can he tell us how much of the spill is escaping through the sewers into Hamilton Harbour?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I have not been informed of the incident raised by the member. I give him the assurance I will look into it within minutes of leaving question period and I will be more than happy to report back to the House.

With respect to the other part of the question that relates to the amount of spillage into the Hamilton sewer system, I will look into that for him.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am amazed the minister is not aware. Can he also tell us, when he reports back to the House, what danger still exists, particularly in terms of the volatile tar, and if it should turn warm the vapours we will have in that operation? In the course of checking that out, can he check out how recently the two million gallon tank that apparently has split was inspected and what the inspection reports said?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am happy to take that under advisement as well. I will get back with a full report covering the questions raised by the member.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Labour. On April 13, 1984, the minister gave a reply to a question raised by my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye).

He said: "We are right in the middle of coming up with some final amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. We hope to be able to bring those forward in this Legislature in the not too distant future." He went on to say: "Before we bring it into the Legislature, we will be conferring with injured workers' groups, with the employers' council and so on."

Can the minister give some clarification? He has the proposed amendments now for a new Workers' Compensation Act. Is he going to have them referred back to a committee of the Legislature for review before bringing the bill into the Legislature, as he has indicated to the injured workers, for further consultation on matters that may cause certain difficulties with the amendments?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, it is my intention that the bill will get first and second reading in the spring, with the concurrence of the three House leaders, and then will go to committee in the summer so everyone will have an opportunity for input and consultation.

Mr. Haggerty: My understanding is that the minister will bring in the bill within the next two weeks for debate in second reading and referral to a committee of the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: That is correct.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Speaker, will the minister make sure when the bill is introduced any increase that will take place in injured workers' benefits in consideration of the cost-of-living clause will be completely separate from the amendments that will be introduced as a result of the proposals of the white paper on the Workers' Compensation Act and of the Weiler report?

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I hope to have these amendments in the House within the next few days. We have attempted to take into serious consideration the deliberations of the standing committee on resources development, which held about 101 days of hearings in Toronto, Sudbury, Windsor and Thunder Bay.

We have also tried to take into account the concerns of the Association of Injured Workers' Groups, meeting with its representatives on several occasions to get their thoughts, and the concerns of the Employers' Council on Workers' Compensation representing employers across the province. We have taken all these things into consideration and I think we have done a reasonably good job in that respect. We will have to wait for the bill to be introduced within the next few days.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Will the minister report on the situation at the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa-Carleton which threatens to develop into a strike next Monday?

In particular, does the minister consider it fair that workers who are among the lowest paid in the province are being offered a pay increase by the society of only 0.8 per cent, exclusive of increments? That is what is leading to the threat of a work breakdown.

Is the minister satisfied with the drastic cuts in preventive services which have already been made by the Ottawa children's aid society, despite the priority given to prevention by the ministry? What steps is the government prepared to take to protect children from the combination of underfunding by the ministry and mismanagement by the society, as well as to deal fairly with the workers there?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, that is quite a speech at a time when there are some very crucial labour relations negotiations going on. Frankly, until the matter is resolved, the minister is not going to comment on it.

Mr. Cassidy: Is the ministry prepared to go in and take any action, given that it is mismanagement by the society and, in addition, underfunding by the ministry which have created the situation that exists in the Ottawa children's aid society?

Specifically, what does the minister think of a situation where, while he preaches prevention, the society has closed down its play therapy program, a program that has been there for 14 years and which is the only service provided in the region for kids who have been sexually abused? What does the ministry think of the fact that program has been shut down when the number of reported cases of sexual abuse of

children which came to the children's aid society last year more than doubled?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am going to repeat what I have said. The Ottawa children's aid society and the labour organization representing some of its employees are now at a critical point of labour relations negotiations. What the honourable member obviously wants me to do is to leap in and take the part of one side. I am not going to do it. I am rather surprised he would ask me to.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, for preventive services, the number of referrals to the Ottawa society are up 20 per cent in the last year. The number of referrals of sexual abuse cases in 1983 was up 70 per cent over 1982. The society has been forced to cut back some of its preventive programs. What is the minister going to do in terms of funding to ensure that preventive programs, which I am sure the minister would agree are those that are most worthwhile, are not cut back further?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I will be prepared to answer that when the labour relations matters are resolved.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour as minister responsible for the Ontario Manpower Commission. The minister will recall that about a year and a half ago, I guess almost two years ago now, we presented to this House a task force report on youth unemployment, and a couple of months ago a proposal with respect to skilled trades training.

The central theme in both was the need for adequate information to go to those who are providing training, those who are providing counselling and those who need the information, namely, the unemployed young people.

I ask the minister to comment on a report in the Toronto Star of Tuesday, May 22, which is less than a week ago. It indicates that the Ontario manpower projection system has information available with respect both to the jobs that are going to be of declining importance and those that are going to be of increasing importance. It reports that "the average job hunter will have difficulty seeing the lists."

Could the minister comment on whether that is a fact; if it is, why; and what he intends to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the particular article the member is referring to, but from the note sent over to me, I believe the information referenced in the Toronto Star article is available to anyone from the

Ministry of Labour's communications division. The information is based on census data, not projections. It describes occupations which have declined or grown over the 1971 to 1981 period.

Projections on job openings and labour supply will be released by the Ontario Manpower Commission. These data are at an aggregate level. The commission is currently assessing the feasibility of generating more detailed occupational projections. If the member requires any further information, I will be happy to have the appropriate officials at the Ontario Manpower Commission contact him personally.

Mr. Sweeney: I thank the minister. I appreciate that.

I would further ask a supplementary to the minister: The report indicates, and the word used is "eventually," the predictions are to be computerized and made available to people in schools, universities, and government job centres and to career counsellors.

Surely the minister would be as concerned as I that the use of the word "eventually" for information that is critically needed right now, speaks to a time lag within his ministry, or an agency within his ministry, that simply cannot be tolerated. Such large numbers of young people are looking for career advice at this time that if such information is available in a form that could be useful to them a mechanism has to be found where that information can get out almost immediately, both to those looking for work and to those who are providing the training.

Would the minister not agree that is necessary, and would he give us some indication as to what he proposes to do to implement that information?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I agree with the point the member has raised, and I will follow up accordingly and be back to him with further information.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

THEATRES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Elgie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Gregory, first reading of Bill 82, An Act to amend the Theatres Act.

Motion agreed to.

3:40 p.m.

HAROLD AND GRACE BAKER CENTRE ACT

Mr. Havrot moved, on behalf of Mr. McCafrey, seconded by Mrs. Scrivener, first reading of Bill Pr21, An Act respecting the Harold and Grace Baker Centre.

Motion agreed to.

INJURED WORKERS' DAY ACT

Mr. Lupusella moved, seconded by Mr. Philip, first reading of Bill 83, An Act to recognize June 1 as Injured Workers' Day.

Motion agreed to.

[Interruption]

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the visitors in the gallery to resume their seats, please. Thank you.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a private member's bill in the Legislature which would establish June 1 each year as Injured Workers' Day.

A compensable accident occurs every 20 seconds in every work day. On average, one worker dies on the job every working day in Ontario. In 1982 alone, the Workers' Compensation Board accepted 203 fatal accident claims. More than 330,000 compensation claims were accepted by the WCB in 1982. Currently, 80,000 men and women receive lifetime disability pensions. They deserve recognition.

The carnage in Ontario's work place is a disgrace. Equally disgraceful is the snail's pace at which the government has moved to reform its inadequate, inefficient, discriminatory and bureaucratic system of workers' compensation. The current review process is now more than four years old. Since it began, the government has published two studies by Professor Paul Weiler and its own white paper on the Workers' Compensation Act, commissioned a number of studies and held hearings around Ontario. More than 100 submissions and briefs were submitted to the legislative committee dealing with compensation issues. The committee's own report was released late last year.

Surely a government that can take more than four years to study these problems without yet bringing in legislative changes and—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must remind the member that he may explain the bill, but he must not get into a debate.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Speaker, the government has done little to move on needed and long overdue reforms and benefit levels. I hope the members of this Legislature will endorse the principle of this private member's bill and make sure this bill passes, making June 1 Injured Workers' Day in Ontario.

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF REVENUE

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the

estimates of the Ministry of Revenue for 1984-85 to this assembly.

As a preliminary to my comments, I would like the honourable members to bear with me while I respond to a request by the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) to deal with the eight detailed financial questions he tabled earlier and wants answered at this time.

In deference to the patience of other members and in view of the length of some of the replies, I will not read the full responses but will review only the key points in each answer. At the same time, I would like to assure the member for Rainy River that the full responses are contained in my tabled estimates statement, a copy of which he already has. These responses are in the form of appendices attached to the statement.

The first part of question 18 dealt with expenditures by my ministry for a variety of services over a five-year period. The amounts spent on management consulting services were as follows: \$194,700 in 1978-79, \$60,400 in 1979-80, \$173,500 in 1980-81, \$291,400 in 1981-82 and \$498,400 in 1982-83.

For technical consulting services, expenditures were made only in the 1982-83 fiscal year; they amounted to \$58,000. The amounts spent on internal communications services, which include the operation of the ministry's library, were \$167,200 in 1978-79, \$194,200 in 1979-80, \$253,200 in 1980-81, \$254,700 in 1981-82 and \$318,800 in 1982-83. These figures include salaries and direct operating expenses.

The amounts spent to obtain legal services were \$728,100 in 1978-79, \$860,300 in 1979-80, \$1,078,200 in 1980-81, \$1,141,700 in 1981-82 and \$1,320,900 in 1982-83. The amount spent to acquire research and development services pertains only to the 1978-79 fiscal year; it was \$1,500. Creative communications services expenditures were as follows: \$9,100 in 1978-80, \$24,200 in 1980-81, \$72,600 in 1981-82 and \$99,100 in 1982-83.

Part 2 of question 18 asked for the number of contracts for each of the above categories. The answers are as follows. For management consulting services, six contracts were awarded in 1979-80, five in 1980-81, nine in 1981-82 and eight in 1982-83; for technical consulting services, two contracts were awarded in the 1982-83 fiscal year.

For communications services, no contracts were awarded in any of the five fiscal years covered in the question by the member for Rainy River. These services were provided

entirely by regular staff and are included in the above expenditures.

For legal services, 169 contracts were awarded as follows: 31 in 1978-79, 37 in 1979-80, 35 in 1980-81, 33 in 1981-82, and 33 in 1982-83. For research and development services, no contracts were awarded. For creative communications services, 16 contracts were awarded in 1979-80, 22 in 1980-81, 40 in 1981-82 and 26 in 1982-83.

3:50 p.m.

Part 3 of question 18 asked for the names of the individual, individuals, companies or firms that were awarded contracts in the above six categories and whether the contracts were tendered. These names are listed in the appropriate appendix to my statement.

The number of contracts that were tendered in each category are as follows, and members will bear in mind that contracts under \$15,000 are not tendered: for management consulting services, in 1979-80 none, in 1980-81 one, in 1981-82 one and in 1982-83 three; for technical consulting services, one contract was tendered in 1982-83. There were no contracts for communication services or for research and development services. For legal services, the question of tendering is not applicable according to the requirements of the Ontario Manual of Administration. For creative and communication services in all years, no contracts were above \$15,000, and thus no contracts were tendered.

The second question, 47, dealt with the number of employees in my ministry who are not classified as civil servants. Revenue currently has 213 regular contract employees, 26 GO Temporary employees, five agency temporary employees and 25 systems development consultants. The total cost for these services was \$9,005,989 in 1981-82 and \$10,070,895 in 1982-83.

The third question, 76, asked for the number of vehicles rented, leased or owned by Revenue, for a description of each vehicle and for the expenses incurred in the operation of each vehicle. My ministry spent \$268,449 in fiscal 1983-84 to operate the 142 vehicles it owns and \$139,639 to lease and operate 49 additional vehicles. For more detailed information concerning descriptions of the vehicles and the total individual expense for each, I refer members to appendix 3 of my statement.

The fourth question, 105, dealt with the use of government-owned, chauffeur-driven vehicles. Parliamentary assistants do have access to government-owned vehicles supplied on request by the garage of the Ministry of Transportation

and Communications and charged back to the ministry.

The fifth question, 134, dealt with trips taken outside Canada in 1981-82 and 1982-83 by myself or my senior staff. Two trips involving nine people were taken in 1981-82 for a total cost of \$12,146. In 1982-83, five trips were taken involving 14 people and costing \$28,118. Further details of each trip can be found in appendix 5 of my statement.

The sixth question, 163, requested information on public opinion polls commissioned by the government during 1981-82 and 1982-83. No such polls or surveys were undertaken by my ministry.

The seventh question, 192, dealt with the number of communications personnel, clerical, support and contract staff and their salaries. For 1977-78, there were four staff in communications services, excluding the ministry library, and the total remuneration was \$83,078. In 1982-83, there were seven staff and their salaries amounted to \$173,766. The member also wished to know whether I have a personal media adviser. I do not.

The eighth question, 221, requested information on my ministry's advertising budgets and agencies. Revenue's advertising expenditure for 1982-83 was \$684,795 and for 1981-82 it was \$1,293,067. Case Associates was employed for all creative production and media planning. The contract was awarded on the basis of a comprehensive agency selection process conducted according to the Ontario Manual of Administration guidelines. Foster Advertising, as the Ontario government's agency of record, handled all media placement and purchasing.

I trust these figures will satisfy the requirements of the member for Rainy River and I hope the other members did not find them too tedious.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Not at all; they enjoyed them.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Were they good?

Mr. T. P. Reid: They enjoyed each and every minute of it.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is good.

As I indicated, the detailed responses have been tabled with my estimates material, so the members will have full details.

Before examining specific 1984-85 budget allocations in detail, I believe it would be useful to the members to review some of the more significant activities taking place in the Ministry of Revenue in this fiscal year. I believe my comments will clearly illustrate that my ministry continues to develop its capacity to increase productivity through the utilization of modern

technology. As well, I believe Revenue has developed a customer service program second to none for our diverse client groups.

As with all Ontario government ministries, Revenue continually strives to meet the government-wide objectives described by the phrase "doing more with less." I believe the honourable members will see in my comments and in these estimates how the Ministry of Revenue intends to continue with this difficult and challenging objective.

First, I would like to draw the members' attention to the human resource summary and the expenditure summary tables in the briefing material I have already provided for their review. The members will observe that the human resource table describes the planned employment for 1984-85 by major program alongside a comparison of the same figures presented to members in last year's estimates submission.

As the members will know, however, Revenue presents its manpower estimates in terms of maximum staffing potential. This method exhibits most clearly our manpower needs for the consideration of the members. At the same time, it is important to understand that the actual level of staff employed is usually somewhat lower because of vacancies and staff redeployment.

Our tax revenue program is the only area that requires an increase in maximum staffing potential. Generally, this involves a balanced distribution of staff across such areas as taxpayer education and assistance, compliance and technological support. Our primary emphasis is on supporting the voluntary self-assessing nature of our tax system and processes.

The planned staffing potential for the property assessment program, Province of Ontario Savings Office and ministry administration, however, has been decreased for 1984-85 by 15 man-years in total. The members will recall that the planned staffing requested for my ministry in previous years included provisions for its move to Oshawa. Now, one year after the move, there have been significant reductions in these staffing requirements. Overall, our staff levels have been increased by nine man-years for 1984-85 to deal with steady increases in the volume and complexity of the tax revenue and grants programs.

Integrated with my ministry's human resource strategies is our affirmative action program. My ministry is committed to the development of our women employees through this program, which was first introduced in 1974 and which is designed to raise and diversify the occupational participation of women.

Affirmative action achievements have been realized with the introduction in the tax revenue and property assessment programs of RCAP, the Revenue career advancement program. Through training and education, women have been encouraged to enter into such nontraditional areas as property assessing and tax auditing. To date, 91 women have moved from clerical positions to become assessors and tax auditors.

In 1983-84, a new program was established to integrate women into systems technology occupations. Currently, we have 23 women in the systems services area. As well, there were 73 accelerated career development initiatives undertaken in 1983-84, up from 51 in 1982-83. These include on-the-job training, job rotations and secondments to help develop women for underrepresented and management positions.

4 p.m.

In 1984-85, my ministry plans to incorporate its new performance management and career planning system into the affirmative action program to identify the career goals and development requirements of our women employees on a broader basis. At the same time, the bridging programs into property assessment, tax auditing and systems will continue, with 26 initiatives planned for 1984-85.

The second table in the briefing material to which I want to draw the members' attention is the expenditures summary. Members will see that this summary describes the 1984-85 estimates spending and compares it to last year's actual by major classification.

The table shows that for 1984-85 the Ministry of Revenue's total operating expenditure, excluding transfer payments, is up by \$6.4 million over last year. Manpower-related costs are up by \$2.5 million, while travel, services and supplies are increased by \$3.9 million, attributable largely to my ministry's planned investment in technology to exploit our new production facilities in Oshawa. The result is that the staffing and operating expenditures have been controlled to minimum requirements, despite the pressures of inflation and increases in work load and complexity in all ministry programs.

In view of these results, I believe I am fully justified in stating that my ministry continues to manage its resources prudently, efficiently and effectively within the level-line budget trend established in recent years.

I turn now to my ministry's continuing plans to maximize the efficient use of information technology. As reported in the past—

Mr. Boudria: Who wrote this?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I wrote it all myself last night.

Mr. Boudria: Last night?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Yes. Does my friend like it?

Mr. Breaugh: It is obvious the minister got it last night, but he cannot read it today.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is right. I hope the member is enjoying it as much as I am enjoying reading it to him.

Mr. Epp: Get down to the meat of it.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Okay, we are getting there. Bear with me.

As reported in the past, the Ministry of Revenue has been extremely successful in applying new technology to meet its operational targets and high customer service standards. The exploitation of technology has allowed my ministry to maintain a level-line budget trend in resources while absorbing significant increases in the volume and complexity of its work loads. In addition, the ministry has been able to continue to expand its information services and assistance to taxpayers, senior citizens and municipalities.

These achievements are the result of a carefully planned and managed set of strategic and tactical investment plans based on the use of exact business case calculations of costs and returns. In recent years my ministry has invested many millions of dollars to modernize all its production lines. In all cases these projects have been completed on time and within budget and have met their delivery targets.

The Ministry of Revenue has well positioned itself through its experience in recent years to take effective advantage of new technological opportunities to secure further productivity gains.

The establishment of a technology strategy committee, which is responsible for the monitoring and development of information technology strategies and for ensuring prudent systems investments, has resulted in enhanced planning efforts and research activities that are essential to a well-managed approach to technology integration.

Under the direction of the technology strategy committee, the Ministry of Revenue is currently engaged in establishing a second five-year plan that will guide the exploitation of advanced computer and office systems in the ministry during the remainder of the 1980s.

At the ministry level, overall principles and policies have been refined and implemented that will govern organizational development, resource management, standards and technology policy requirements and security issues. These efforts will also contribute to the information technology strategy initiatives sponsored by Management Board, which are currently being conducted on a government-wide basis.

My ministry is particularly cognizant of the rapidly changing technology marketplace. The emergence of microcomputers, new office automation systems and advances in electronic communications generally constitute a new generation of opportunities to further increase productivity in all ministry programs.

Most important, planning activities also recognize the impact that new technology will have on our staff. The Ministry of Revenue is firmly committed to the careful introduction of technology into our work environment and will ensure that career development, job enrichment, quality of working life and safety are prime considerations in our pursuit of enhanced productivity.

We fully recognize that staff management is the key to increased productivity. Indeed, we recognize that while technology will give us new tools, it is our people who are the ultimate source of increased productivity and particularly of improved customer services. Consequently, education and training play key roles when introducing new technology to our employees.

The staged integration of technology, together with an effective training and education plan, has proved to be very beneficial for both staff development and the attainment of ministry productivity objectives. Technology is widely viewed as an opportunity that provides job enrichment and the maximization of prospects for career advancement rather than a threat to employment.

Human resource planning, therefore, is an integral part of my ministry's new five-year technology plan. Guidelines are being developed to ensure that all new applications of office automation continue to provide careful consideration of the human factor.

To aid in this objective, my ministry has established a technology resource centre which will allow employees to develop new skills while creating a positive awareness to information technology. This centre is open to all employees and serves as a training centre for the introduction of new office equipment and as an ongoing

education facility for new developments in this field.

I would like to review a number of specific developments related to programs administered in areas of tax revenue and property assessment.

The tax revenue program is responsible for the administration of a wide variety of tax- and benefit-related statutes. The provisions of these statutes are changing constantly to meet the needs of Ontario's fiscal and economic policies as well as the requirements of our customers and business conditions in the private sector.

As members are aware, significant adjustments to tax and benefit programs regularly occur as part of the Ontario budget process. The nature of this process demands that revenue management must be able to implement policy changes quickly and effectively. These changes invariably affect large numbers of taxpayers and beneficiaries. Production lines and administrative procedures must be designed with built-in flexibility to accommodate policy changes, and my ministry must, at short notice, be able to launch effective communications programs to help our customers deal with such changes.

My ministry's ability to implement program changes has been amply demonstrated in the introduction in recent years of the Ontario tax grants for seniors program, the small business development corporations program, diesel fuel coloration, ad valorem taxation and a series of a short-term corporation and sales tax relief measures for large numbers of small businesses.

Similarly, the 1982 budget involved the largest change to retail sales tax since it was introduced in 1961, while the 1984 budget involves a major new property assessment program for the disabled and for seniors as well as several important tax changes.

These new policies could not have been managed as quickly and smoothly if we had not invested in new technology. Over the past five years, all major production lines have been modernized, resulting in significant cost savings. Because of the electronic data processing productivity gains thus secured, staff has increased by only 21 since 1977, despite massive program growth, change and additions and increased complexity.

4:10 p.m.

The savings stemming from computer investments are nowhere better shown than in the operations of two major programs. In the corporations tax branch, an accumulated investment of only \$1.5 million has produced an 11 per cent staff decrease since 1977, a period in which

the number of tax returns increased by 50 per cent. In the retail sales tax branch, an investment of \$2.5 million has resulted in an 18 per cent staffing reduction since 1977, a period in which assessments increased by 131 per cent.

These are impressive examples of the productivity gains made possible by the exploitation of technological developments.

At the same time, I must stress that the Ministry of Revenue is in no danger of becoming so mesmerized by technology or by the narcotic of "change for change's sake" that we lose sight of the human factors vital even to the unwelcome task of tax-gathering. Indeed, my ministry constantly strives to balance operational efficiency with an increasing emphasis on improved customer services.

The success of my ministry's balanced approach to tax collection is evident in a number of areas, chief among which is compliance. A key objective of my ministry is to encourage voluntary compliance by taxpayers on a continuing basis. We do not strive to collect every last dollar every day; indeed, the dangers of such a rigorous and aggressive system have been well demonstrated by current criticisms of the Ministry of National Revenue.

As a result of our approach, an estimated 87 per cent of our clients voluntarily comply with provincial tax requirements. Of the other 13 per cent, the majority of problems are minor and are resolved without difficulty or hardship. This demonstrates that the vast majority of taxpayers are willing to pay their taxes and that only a very small minority indulges in wilful evasion.

Another good example of our balanced approach is our small vendor assistance program, or SVAP. This program is designed to help some 65,000 small businesses comply with the requirements of the Retail Sales Tax Act. In the first instance, this group was created to deal with the massive expansion of the retail sales tax base in 1982 and clearly demonstrates how my ministry responds to a potentially difficult situation in a positive way.

Instead of hiring more auditors to quickly increase tax collections, we elected to train more customer service staff. In making new vendors more aware of compliance procedures and of their responsibilities, the expansion in sales tax in 1982 was carried through with a minimum of customer problems, which in turn resulted in a smooth increase in revenues.

The fact that last year we received only 1,490 notices of objection out of a tax roll of 550,000 is

another indication of the success of our balanced approach to taxation.

I would like now to touch briefly on two important ministry programs which provide significant financial assistance to Ontario's large and growing senior citizen population.

July 1984 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Ontario guaranteed annual income system. In July 1974, the annual income guarantee was \$2,600 for a single or widowed pensioner and \$5,200 for a married pensioner couple. In December 1984, the single pensioner guarantee will be close to \$8,200.

The maximum monthly Ontario Gains payment to a single pensioner in receipt of federal old age security was \$24.29 when the program was introduced in 1974. The new maximum single payment of \$83 monthly, which goes into effect this December, represents an increase of 240 per cent over the rates in effect in July 1974.

Mr. McClellan: What was the rate of inflation during that period?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am sorry? I missed that one.

Mr. McClellan: What was the rate of inflation during that period?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am sure the honourable member knows or he would not ask me.

Mr. McClellan: I bet it was close to 240 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: If that is so, we are keeping up with inflation.

Mr. McClellan: That is not much to boast about.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is not too bad, though.

Mr. McClellan: It is not good; you could do better.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: We could always do better.

Second, the Ontario tax grants for seniors program has seen a number of significant technical enhancements over the past year, which have also contributed to substantial improvements in program delivery. One such enhancement was the expansion in 1983 of our on-line data management capability. The implementation of this capacity has improved the rate of correcting and processing deficient applications by 50 per cent over 1982.

It has also allowed for the front-end processing of status changes and requests for applications, reducing the time between the receipt of a telephone request for a property tax grant

application and the mailing of that application from an average of six weeks in 1982 to seven working days in 1983.

Another major system in which investment and technology played a key role allows for the tracking of Ontario tax grant inquiries. This system assists the staff in resolving simple inquiries quickly and allows for concentration on more complex inquiries. While the average time to resolve an inquiry was close to two months during the peak period in 1982, the average for the same period in 1983 was similarly reduced to seven working days.

Further, the creation of a dedicated inquiry unit to serve members of the Legislative Assembly and their constituency offices has also resulted in dramatic service improvements. I am pleased that many members have taken the time to express their appreciation for this service. The average response time for MPP inquiries which could not be resolved on the initial phone call was cut to 3.2 days during our busiest period in the fall of 1983.

Finally, as the members are aware, the first instalment payments of 1984 property tax grants, combined with the final \$20 payments of temporary home heating grants, were mailed on May 4 to more than 567,000 senior citizens. These cheques had a total value of close to \$143 million.

I would now like to review the progress of the small business tax exemption program. In his budget of May 1982, the then Treasurer, now the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller), introduced a two-year income tax exemption for incorporated small businesses. Under this program, these businesses were exempted from paying Ontario corporate income tax on their first \$200,000 of annual income.

In 1983, the program was extended for one additional year to taxation years ending before May 14, 1984. Our initial expectation was that approximately 60,000 small businesses would benefit by being provided with more capital for investment and job creation.

In its first two years of operation, the small business tax exemption program has benefited some 67,000 small businesses through exemptions totalling \$530 million. It is estimated the benefit for the third year will be about \$180 million. By any measure, this program constitutes a massive demonstration of this government's commitment to ensuring the continuing viability of Ontario's small business sector.

It is also noteworthy that while this program is drawing to a close, the Treasurer (Mr. Gross-

man) announced in his 1984 budget a similar tax holiday for new small businesses which will also be administered by the Ministry of Revenue.

The small business development corporations program, or SBDC, is another important measure by which the Ontario government is assisting the growth of small businesses and which is also administered by my ministry. In the fiscal year 1983-84, some \$73 million was invested in eligible small businesses in Ontario as a result of this program.

Within fiscal 1983-84, some 190 new small business development corporations were registered, through which a large and fresh supply of venture capital was made available for investment in a wide range of small businesses. These new SBDCs made 370 investments in small businesses, totalling some \$26.3 million, bringing the number of investments made to 1,037 since the program's inception in 1979.

4:20 p.m.

It is clear that the SBDC program has become a significant force in the venture capital marketplace, and it is successful in meeting its objectives of providing investment dollars and expertise to small businesses. I believe it has a very definite impact on Ontario's economy in terms of jobs saved and created; businesses saved, created and expanded; and in new investment in plants and equipment.

In line with the Treasurer's recent budget, my ministry is now taking steps to increase the flow of investment funds by way of small business development corporations in northern and eastern Ontario. Building on this success, the range of services in the SBDC program has been expanded. A prospective small business participant not only is provided with the information necessary for understanding the program and for evaluating its own eligibility, but also can be matched up by my ministry with a potential investor.

A vital responsibility of my ministry is the collection of a large portion of Ontario revenues. This also implies a responsibility to ensure the efficient and timely transfer of these funds to the province's consolidated revenue fund for use in providing a wide range of services to Ontario's citizens.

These funds enter and leave Revenue through our taxation data centre, which has developed mechanisms to ensure that from the time funds reach the centre, generally by mail, not more than 12 hours elapse before the individual payment is deposited in the banking system. The primary consideration is to deposit to earn

maximum interest, and do the paperwork second.

In fiscal year 1983-84, this improvement in revenue processing contributed significantly to the government's \$213 million earnings from short-term investment of surplus cash. Since moving to Oshawa, the centre has achieved a 70 per cent productivity improvement in the processing of incoming mail and a 65 per cent productivity improvement in data entry times. These productivity improvements have allowed the taxation data centre to take on additional work loads from other branches, with no increase in staff or resources.

Among these work loads are the operation of the "Ontario—yours to discover" sales tax rebate program for visitors, direct deposit and non-negotiable cheque processing, post-dated cheque processing and the operation of a new computer which handles my ministry's financial planning system. Similarly, the centre will administer the new sales tax rebate in hotel accommodation for tourists, announced in the 1984 budget.

The taxation data centre amply demonstrates the benefits that can be achieved, especially in an atmosphere of fiscal restraint, through an intelligent application of technology, through workload rationalization and streamlining and through sound financial management and business planning.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: Not meaning any disrespect to the minister, these are important estimates and I do not see a quorum.

The Chairman ordered the bells to be rung.

4:28 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: There now being a quorum, the minister will continue.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, judging by the enthusiasm from my own side, I know that all the members are going to stay and listen to this very interesting address.

I turn now to the property assessment program and a review of a number of its present initiatives to improve its services to municipalities and ratepayers.

First, let me draw the members' attention to the printed estimates for the property assessment program which indicate a total 1984-85 estimate of \$78.9 million as opposed to the 1983-84 figure of \$78.3 million. The difference of \$600,000 represents less than a one per cent increase in funding.

Considering that \$3.2 million is attributable to annualized salary and benefit increases for 1984, it is more appropriate when comparing with last year to express the real assessment budget as \$75.7 million, representing a reduction in spending power of \$2.6 million or 3.3 per cent.

It should also be noted that \$2.3 million of special incentive funding for systems investment has been included in the printed estimates for the Ontario assessment system project. The significance of this is that these funds are borrowed and must be repaid with interest to Management Board and are not a permanent addition to ongoing assessment funding.

Our spending power has been reduced by inflation. As well, the assessment program has achieved a reduction of nine regular man-years from 2,149 in 1983-84 to the current 2,140.

When considered in the context of the constraints of the previous three years, the pressures placed on the program to maintain its current high level of productivity are very real and substantial. Clearly, these printed estimates reflect a remarkable achievement of the assessment program. Not only have ongoing program commitments and objectives been maintained, such as the production of assessment rolls and the delivery of supplementary assessments, but also a number of important new initiatives have been undertaken to improve services to our municipal clients.

I would like to detail some of the more significant assessment achievements of the past year, achievements which ensure the program's continuing objective of productivity increases allied to ongoing improvements in customer services, all of which have been accomplished in a time of stern fiscal restraint.

To set these achievements in perspective, I would like the members to be aware of several important program initiatives.

First, there is the reduction of more than 400 man-years, from 2,546 in 1975 to 2,140 in 1984-85, through the ongoing realignment of functions and activities. This reduction occurred while the number of assessable units was increasing at an average annual rate of five per cent and reflects a truly significant productivity gain.

Second, the transfer of electronic data processing systems and operations to private suppliers is providing savings of \$300,000 over a three-year period beginning in fiscal 1982.

Third, there is the targeted mailing of assessment notices to only those property owners and tenants for whom there has been a change to the

information recorded on the previous assessment roll. This measure alone has resulted in an immediate and ongoing reduction in expenditures of approximately \$2 million which, I emphasize, was returned to the consolidated revenue fund.

This record of high performance and responsible fiscal management speaks for itself and should be a source of satisfaction to all members. I am certain that the coming years will see even further productivity gains and that the public will continue to receive high and improved levels of service, with the lowest possible demand on public resources.

I would like to comment briefly on the successful implementation of the targeted mailing of the assessment notices provision of Bill 90. As I mentioned, this initiative represents an annual saving of \$2 million and was the result of careful planning, sound administration and an effective communications strategy.

Mr. Boudria: And a few pats on the back.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Why not?

Mr. Sweeney: Naturellement. What else did you expect?

Mr. Robinson: If members opposite do it, the minister will not have to do it himself.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is right.

There was concern expressed by some members that the savings attributed to the targeted mailing would be significantly diminished by the increased cost of the expanded media campaign to advise ratepayers of the change and of their continued right to appeal. At that time, I indicated the expanded media campaign would cost about \$90,000 more than the previous campaign. The actual cost was \$87,000, which is certainly a small expenditure, especially when viewed against the larger benefits.

The single most important function of the property assessment program is to provide defensible assessment rolls to 839 municipalities for the purpose of generating revenue not only for the municipality itself but also for county or regional governments and for the 127 school boards. As members are aware, these rolls also provide the basis for the distribution of additional revenues to school boards and local governments in the form of provincial grants.

In this regard, the property assessment program has played and will continue to play a vital role in preserving the integrity of the municipal assessment base and the provincial grants system. An important part of this responsibility is to make sure assessments are kept up to date and are

as equitable as possible under the various municipal assessment bases that the program administers on behalf of the municipalities.

Since 1981, the assessment program has been taking special care to update assessment rolls across the province to reflect improvements which add more than \$2,500 market value to a property. This policy was initiated in response to requests from municipalities and with the support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Municipal Advisory Committee on Assessment Data Services.

Last year the assessment program altered the year-end assessment of 174,500 properties, or more than five per cent of the properties in the province, the vast majority of which were increases to reflect additions, alterations and renovations that added more than \$2,500 to the value of the property.

The numbers of assessment changes with respect to the 1981 and 1982 taxation years were 135,500 and 161,700, respectively. In the past three years close to half a million properties have been adjusted to preserve the integrity of the municipal assessment base and the tax system.

Two other important program priorities that strengthen the revenue base are supplementary assessments and appeals defence. All together some 172,200 supplementary assessments were issued in 1983, generating an estimated \$90 million in new tax dollars.

My ministry will continue to provide this essential service and thereby provide welcome assessment growth and additional revenue to municipalities and school boards throughout the province. It is this new assessment that allows municipalities and school boards to provide better services for the benefit of all ratepayers and reduce otherwise necessary increases in mill rates.

Of course, there would be little net benefit from the supplementary assessments to the municipalities, the school boards or their ratepayers if the program were not equally effective in defending their assessment bases. This year we are undertaking the defence of 122,000 new appeals to the Assessment Review Board. We are also engaged in the defence of about 90,000 appeals to all levels of courts from previous years. I have instructed my staff to spare no effort to assist ratepayers in determining the validity of each appeal and in actively defending all assessments that are determined to be fair and equitable.

As honourable members are aware, the defence of commercial and industrial appeals has

been particularly difficult in municipalities where frozen and antiquated assessment rolls are still in place. There are and will continue to be in such municipalities a relatively large number of successful appeals.

There is, of course, an option available to municipalities to correct assessment inequities within property classes within a municipality and to make their base more defensible. This option is to request reassessment under section 63 of the Assessment Act.

At this time I could review the benefits of section 63 reassessment and restate the reasons it has been so successful; to do so, however, would be to restate the obvious. What is important to note is that section 63 reassessment is a major step in the improvement of the assessment system in Ontario. We now have 576 municipalities, or 69 per cent of all municipalities in the province, on a recent market value base. I anticipate that this year approximately 120 municipalities will consider implementing a section 63 reassessment on a 1980 market value base.

I am well aware that section 63 is not a panacea for all the problems related to assessment in Ontario. It has never been claimed that section 63 is an end in itself, but it is an important first step towards a rational assessment system in Ontario, and in this context the program has enjoyed the full support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and its fiscal committee.

We have made major gains. Those improvements are now being consolidated, and municipal and provincial officials are now focusing their attention on how to build on this solid foundation. I am confident this open consideration of various options will result in a consensus as to the best next step.

4:40 p.m.

The process of open consideration to determine the next best step is illustrative of the overall commitment of the assessment program to openness in assessment in Ontario. In April, I had the privilege of addressing the Toronto chapter of the Canadian Property Tax Agents Association. My remarks were directed to the theme of the openness of assessment in Ontario and my comments were well received.

I would like to take this opportunity to outline for the members some of the ways in which the resources of the program are committed to ensuring that municipalities and ratepayers have full access to their assessment system.

Consider the section 63 reassessment program itself. By its nature, it is an open process,

because the assessment program provides interested municipalities with information that allows them to make an informed decision. Without committing itself to the reassessment, municipal councils may request detailed tax impact studies which measure the consequences of possible reassessments. In fact, councils are apprised of the steps they must take prior to making a decision on whether to implement a reassessment.

In my view, it is doubtful whether there is another assessment jurisdiction in North America that provides local representatives with as much information to assist them in making an informed, voluntary decision about reassessment. There are three separate resolutions along the way to implementation. There are two chances to back out, and backing out can be as simple as not passing the next resolution. Finally, the impact of reassessment is known prior to implementation and it is, therefore, possible for council to consider the appropriateness of phasing in tax changes.

There is, of course, a cost associated with providing municipalities with this information and the right to choose whether to request reassessments. The deployment of resources would be much easier if the Ministry of Revenue simply decided on a fixed reassessment schedule in any fiscal year. There are occasions when we prepare for a reassessment that does not ultimately occur; however, this is a price we are willing to pay to ensure that local reassessment will meet local needs.

Another example of the open assessment process in Ontario is the new assessment program policy manual. This manual was prepared by the Ministry of Revenue as a guide to ensure the consistent application of policies and procedures respecting the valuation of real property for assessment purposes. The policy manual was released in May 1982. Since then there have been regular updates and amendments. This year two major sections will be released.

Section 55 will detail the procedures and methodologies employed by the program in calculating equalization factors for municipalities. Section 63 will document the procedures and policies that are required to produce an impact study and reassessment. The program is also developing cost manuals on a 1980 market value basis, with completion scheduled for the early fall. These cost manuals will outline the procedures for the valuation of all real property

and will be of considerable value to everyone interested in assessment practices.

Another publication released in the past year approaches the matter of openness in assessment from another angle. The Guide to the Assessment Act is unique in Canada in providing direction and order to statutory interpretation. It serves both the public and private sectors by providing an easily understood, definitive reference on leading assessment case law and legislative interpretation. I fully expect it will minimize disputes by clarifying and focusing issues.

The guide will be updated every six months to reflect leading court decisions and legislative amendments. Both public and program subscribers to the guide will automatically receive these updates. The updates will be necessitated by the approximately 20 to 30 precedent-setting court decisions that arise from the 150,000 assessment appeals lodged each year.

I realize the true measure of a product is not the work that went into its preparation, but the use that is made of it. In this regard, I am pleased to be able to advise the members that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has widely circulated the guide and has advised us that "response to the publication and its contents has been extremely positive in terms of acceptance and usefulness."

In line with the government's commitment to freedom of information and public access, all the above-mentioned manuals are available to the public in the regional assessment offices and in the Ministry of Revenue's public information centre at head office. The members will appreciate that the publication of such technical manuals is a major endeavour, requiring input from experts in the various fields covered. The maintenance and enhancement of these publications also requires regular attention from those same professionals.

Openness is not, by any means, a matter defined only by highly visible products and programs. It is often exemplified by small procedures and by a positive and helpful attitude among assessment staff. By way of example, last year I instructed the regional assessment offices to provide any ratepayer, whether by telephone or over the counter, with any assessment information that is contained on the assessment roll. As the members may know, it had been our practice to refer such queries to the municipal offices where the rolls have traditionally been available for public inspection.

This new service policy will make it easier for any ratepayer to gain access to the information

necessary to determine whether his or her assessment is fair and equitable in comparison to other properties in the neighbourhood.

This is perhaps not a major cost item and it certainly would be difficult to isolate. I anticipate the professional assessment staff will fit these inquiries into their other duties and the result will be best viewed as a customer service measure.

In the area of policy formulation, I am committed to opening as many windows as possible for public participation. It is my ministry's explicit policy actively to solicit comment and advice on measures that would further improve the assessment system in Ontario. This commitment is consistent with the actions of my predecessors and will build on the sound foundations of customer service already in place in the assessment program.

For example, as I noted earlier, the decision on updating assessment rolls to include additions, alterations and improvements that increase the market value of the property by more than \$2,500 was taken as a result of requests by municipalities and with the support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and my ministry's municipal advisory committee on assessment data services.

I would like to remind the members of the extraordinary amount of data collected, formatted and supplied by the property assessment program in response to the diverse needs of its many clients. This is evidenced, as I previously mentioned, by the enhancement of data processing through the Ontario assessment system (property assessment, Revenue) program.

The challenge to maintain and even improve high quality service within current restraints will continue to be approached by the assessment program in the same positive manner as in the past and, I am certain, with the same positive results.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Can you inform the committee whether, given there are only four hours for these estimates and the minister has already used an hour and four minutes, there was any prearrangement for the sharing of time?

The Deputy Chairman: I have no idea whether there has been. Has the minister any idea? Has there been any discussion? There has been no discussion. How much longer does the minister have for his opening statement?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Just a few moments. It is important. I know the honourable member would want to have the full statement from me. I would

point out that a lot of the time was taken in answering—

Mr. Stokes: It is all very interesting. I have sat here right through it, but I was wondering whether there was any arrangement for the sharing of time.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I can assure the member that once I am finished, I do not care whether I speak any more. I am quite happy. I think the member will be interested in the rest of my remarks; he has been attentive up to now.

As the members are aware, my ministry will be administering the new property tax exemption program for disabled and senior citizens for improvements, additions or alterations announced in the 1984 budget, as well as the increase in the general exemption level for improvements from \$2,500 to \$5,000, which measure was included in the bill I introduced earlier.

I have mentioned the importance of customer services to my ministry several times. I would now like to review some of the ways in which we are enhancing our already well-established customer service program.

4:50 p.m.

Perhaps because the activities of my ministry touch the lives of virtually every Ontario citizen, Revenue has long been committed to improving customer services, both as a matter of principle and common sense. Consequently, each program, new and old, undertaken by Revenue has a customer service improvement plan attached to it.

Philosophically, my ministry feels these plans are key to supporting the self-assessment basis to our taxes and to encouraging voluntary compliance by taxpayers. It is also important to containing administrative costs, because uncertainties generate mistakes, costly disputes and expensive corrective actions. Reducing these uncertainties is vital to our ability to manage increasing work loads and complexity in all our programs.

Customer service initiatives are regarded as mutually beneficial to the general public, to the specific client and to ministry staff.

Revenue has a long-standing and successful program of tax simplification and assistance. For instance, since 1975 we have operated the largest toll-free telephone inquiry centre in Ontario and probably in Canada, and this capacity has been greatly strengthened by the installation in Oshawa of the most advanced telephone technology.

Questions concerning our programs, and particularly regarding the Ontario tax grant

program, can be answered in up to 18 languages at no cost to the caller. As well, my ministry recently opened a new storefront public inquiry centre on Grosvenor Street, chosen for its proximity to other government facilities, to public transit and to the downtown area. The centre provides information and assistance to the general public, particularly to senior citizens, and accepts payments for a variety of taxes. Since September 10,368 people have been assisted by the centre's staff.

Our extensive tax information publishing activities are well known by the members. In 1983 alone my ministry produced and distributed 115 publications concerning all taxes, benefit programs and property assessment. As well, extensive newspaper advertising was used to explain tax changes, section 63 reassessments, assessment open houses, appeal dates and seniors' tax grant applications.

The members are certainly aware of one of our improved customer services measures, namely, the establishment of a new MPP inquiry service for Ontario tax grant questions. Response to this service by the members and their constituency staff has been extremely positive. At the same time, the processing of Ontario tax grant applications has been speeded up by expanded on-line data management facilities. Also, the resolution time for complex OTG inquiries has been reduced, on average, to about five working days.

An earlier customer service initiative saw the establishment of a consolidated tax appeals service in 1979. Since then the service has gained the widespread confidence of taxpayers. In 1983, 1,118 individual and corporate taxpayers who had filed objections were contacted to ascertain if the appeals service met their needs. Their responses not only confirmed that the original concept and design of the tax service were sound, but identified areas where the service can be improved. In fact, we have already doubled the time allowed for lodging appeals, from 90 days to 180 days.

Another initiative concerns audits of vendors in the hospitality industry. These are often time-consuming and inconvenient to vendor operations. Consequently, retail sales tax auditors are now equipped with minicomputers, to reduce significantly audit time and, hence, disruption of vendors.

Good customer service survives only in an atmosphere of willing participation and interaction. To foster this, my ministry has an ongoing training program for our employees which

encourages positive customer service attitudes and good telephone habits.

Half-day customer services workshops are held regularly, which emphasize the role of the civil servant, how best to handle clients, how to use the telephone properly and how to ensure a client reaches the right individual either at Revenue or elsewhere.

Our "dealing with the public" workshops are designed to meet the specialized needs of the individual branch. Program managers are consulted to determine specific customer services requirements or procedures and a custom training program is designed and conducted by our customer service trainer.

I believe these examples amply demonstrate my ministry's continuing and expanding commitment to improved productivity through good customer service. In this work, we have received considerable support and recognition by a range of tax organizations and professionals.

I would like to conclude this section of my remarks by quoting from a recent submission by Geoffrey Hale, vice-president of the Canadian Organization of Small Business, to William Farlinger, who was recently appointed by the federal Minister of Revenue to investigate Revenue Canada practices:

"A number of other explicit changes are needed in management policies and priorities if Revenue Canada is to continue its efforts to increase departmental efficiency while providing Canadians with the level of courtesy, consideration and service they have a right to expect. There are thousands of decent, conscientious officials of the tax department who manage to do their jobs fairly, courteously and with due regard for the needs and circumstances of individual taxpayers. It is management's job to ensure that this high level of efficiency, combined with service, becomes the standard by which the performances of all Revenue Canada officials are measured.

"The government of Ontario has gone so far as to mandate a taxpayer service program and make it a major part of the management policies and training programs of the Ministry of Revenue in that province. And to their credit, it has worked! Public and small business complaints over the ministry's administrative and enforcement procedures have fallen dramatically, and a number of COSB members have expressed their pleasure and surprise in finding out that provincial sales and corporate tax auditors are decent, helpful human beings after all."

The successful relocation of my ministry's head office to Oshawa, as part of the government's go-east policy, is well known to the members. I will, therefore, limit my comments on this topic. Two key objectives emerged in the early planning stages. The first was the realization we had a unique opportunity to design a building that would provide the maximum flexibility in work-flow layouts and in the exploitation of new technology.

To help us deal with the restraint policies of this government, in 1977 my ministry's senior staff designed and commenced a five-year plan involving large-scale investment in new technology. These investments have yielded considerable productivity gains and are the foundation of our new operations in Oshawa.

Over the last year alone, my ministry has been able to accommodate significant program changes and work-load growth through the use of a wide range of new office technology. These include an increase in computer terminals from 250 to 400, in word processors from 10 to 64 and in microcomputers from six to 61.

While the bulk of our computerized production is still done at Queen's Park and elsewhere, our new DEC 20/40 and IBM 4340 computers provide improved capacity for systems development in Oshawa. These onsite facilities also avoid otherwise expensive line charges between Oshawa and Queen's Park. Executive Kontact machines, videoconferencing and facsimile transfer systems provide an Oshawa-Toronto regional office voice and data network of communications systems.

The second objective for the Oshawa building was the creation of a pleasant and efficient factory. Because of our involvement from the outset in all aspects of the planning, design and furnishings of the building and because of the excellent support of the Ministry of Government Services, we were able to achieve this objective. The efficiency and flexibility of the building have been fully demonstrated in the 14 months since we moved to Oshawa.

I would be remiss if, in closing, I did not draw the attention of the members to the enormously successful economic and social integration of Revenue into the city of Oshawa and the region of Durham. Altogether, some 312 of our staff have relocated their families to the region while 695 local people have been recruited.

5 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I know you would want me to go on and expand further on the operations of the Ministry of Revenue and I know the members

opposite would be delighted to hear more, but I really feel, in all fairness, I should give them an opportunity to contribute to this debate.

This concludes my introductory remarks on the 1984-85 estimates for the Ministry of Revenue. If any of the members have questions, I will be pleased to attempt to respond.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the minister. The member for Oshawa seems to be the first standing.

Mr. Breagh: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: We should decide how we want to split this around. We will have the opening statement and then decide how the vote goes.

Mr. Breagh: Yes. We have decided the opposition critics will not go much longer than the minister did in his opening statement.

The Deputy Chairman: That will be a treat.

Mr. Breagh: It is fair. I believe the member for Rainy River is otherwise occupied for a brief while, so we will change the rotation just a bit.

I want to make some remarks initially, not really in response to what the minister had to say—although he certainly had a lot to say today—but more in response to several citizens who have been concerned about the ministry's activities. They have brought various problems to me and perhaps put a slightly different perspective on it.

Mr. Rotenberg: Why does the member not tell us about Oshawa and how great it is there?

Mr. Breagh: I will tell the honourable member more than he ever wanted to know about Oshawa any time.

Some of the things the minister had to say are kind of remarkable. He seems to believe he is building a product across the road from my office in Oshawa. It is a little difficult to determine whether he is a Minister of Revenue, because he is really dealing with customer service, new product lines and communications. In response to written questions, we saw that there was a lot of consulting going on and a lot of media work; but there seems to be very little taxation going on across the road, although I see the old Brinks trucks rolling up there every day.

I think we do have something to consider during the course of these estimates. There are a couple of matters about which I want to get a little more specific. In general, one of the things that concerned me a bit in going through the estimates book this time was that it is sometimes difficult to answer simple questions.

For example, one simple question to which I want an answer—and perhaps the minister could take note of it today and put his computers to work for the following week and come up with an answer—is how much money it costs us to gather up all that tax money and then to give it all back out again in various rebates, cheques and things of that nature.

It is difficult to get an answer to a simple question like that. How much does it cost the Ministry of Revenue to hand out money? As we go through the estimates books, we begin to look at the different programs and try to analyse how much they are. We begin to look at the number of cheques processed and the number of people involved. However, we find it is spread rather nicely throughout the ministry activity.

It is kind of difficult to get an answer to that one simple question, from the outside at least. One needs to be aware of how much of each contract goes to putting out a particular program and how much of that particular cost relates to advertising, computer time and telephone time. It is a very complicated thing. I think it would be an interesting exercise if the minister took that one simple question under advisement.

Perhaps at the beginning of next week's continuation of these estimates—I am not asking for another 34-page speech or anything like that—it would be nice if he tried to put together the actual cost; how much money we are spending in Ontario to give the taxpayers back some of the money the government has retrieved from them over the years.

I do not have the staff the minister has. Therefore, I cannot turn to somebody in my office and say, "Cost this out for me." We do not have access to computers, and I only have one other person in the office. She is usually dealing with one of my constituents, which has a slightly higher priority.

In his opening remarks and on other occasions, the minister has made much of the little section 63, market value assessment, the reassessments and the equalized assessments which go on. I had occasion on a couple of evenings to sit down with people at the other end of the system. The members may know I was on a municipal council and have been active and interested in municipal affairs for more than a decade now.

From that perspective, I think I have a reasonable concept of how all the assessment processes work: how important it is for the municipalities to get the assessment roles in time; some of the inequities that are there with regard to market value assessment; when the latest

assessment was done; or how a reassessment is performed.

Therefore, from a municipal council's point of view—and I guess it would be fair to say from the point of view of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario—there is a perspective on all of this assessment stuff. Perhaps there is a working knowledge from one point of view which differs from that of the population at large.

I was interested in the evening sessions I had with ratepayers; they do not follow the process in quite the way that a municipal council does. They are looking for answers.

A couple of weeks ago I wrote to the minister with some examples of ratepayers in the town of Newcastle, where they even got me a little confused as to exactly how they got to it. The town of Newcastle example is one where there were amalgamations of municipalities, and so the first step was the equalized assessment routine which, from a municipal point of view, is virtually straightforward administration and bringing some fairness into the picture. It turns out that these two individuals I was looking at had also had market value assessment put on.

From their perspective, what was not comprehensible was how one's municipal property tax goes from less than \$1,000 to more than \$3,000 in about a three-year period, with no visible services provided. They live in a semi-rural area, so there is no garbage collection. There is not a whole lot of maintenance of streets because there are no streets; there are gravel roads. There are no parks or libraries. There are none of the amenities that most of us would look at and say, "Well, your property taxes have gone up because we are giving you this service, or we have built a new rink, or we put in a new sewer," or something like that.

What confounded me a bit in the two examples I sent to the minister was that, for the most part, we would say, "You have a right to appeal this," or "You have a right to go to an appeal court or assessment panel." These people have done all of those things. They had their hearing. Members of the council had looked at the situations. All the checks and balances in the system had been applied. They had their day in court on more than one occasion. Even with the checks and balances and with their day in court, the actual amount of money they paid in municipal property taxes had more than tripled in a very short time with no additional services.

We may find it a little bothersome from time to time, but from the ratepayers' point of view, there is no explaining what happened to them.

They know their municipal property taxes have gone up to more than \$3,000 in a semi-rural area, and that is a little difficult to explain. When we compare other things that happened in their community, that is also a little difficult to explain. People who have increased levels of services have not had these dramatic property tax increases.

In Newcastle, we asked them to give us a bit of a rundown on what has happened. They were interested in the arguments we made about bringing some fairness into the system and bringing into line an assessment process that we all admit is old, outdated and does not quite match up. More dramatically and sensibly, what they looked at was the percentage increase in their property taxes and how out of whack it really was.

Most of them would accept that there was some inaccuracy or some unfairness about the current assessment practices and that there was a need to bring that around. Most municipal politicians will certainly tell you it is difficult to explain to people how someone gets assessed and what the basis of the assessment is.

Even market value assessment sounds rather straightforward, but if you start talking to real estate agents they say: "That really is not market value. It is related to market value, but it is a percentage of that." When market value assessment is done, a buffer of one or two percentage points is put in because one knows that a lot of people are going to appeal and say, "How can you do that?"

From an administrative point of view, it may make good sense to slap a couple of percentage points on top of an assessment because there will be a number of appeals. But people are saying: "Are you not trying to get an accurate assessment of what my property is worth? How can you play around with it that way and stick a couple of percentage points on top of what you actually think it is just because I am liable to appeal somewhere down the road?"

In Newcastle, people were quite taken aback by the percentage increases. I will just go through a few examples of people who came to see us that night. A 25.5 per cent increase in the property tax is a little tough to understand; so are increases of 27.5 per cent, 92.8 per cent, 154.4 per cent, 87.5 per cent, 22.6 per cent and 33.4 per cent.

From most of these individual's point of view, they would have taken a reasonable approach had they been able to see increased levels of service or had someone taken the time to try to explain to them that it was the basic problem of a very old

assessment process; it is not very easy to bring it into a transition period where there is a new base. They had great difficulty in understanding and asked: "Well, how come it happened to me and not to my brother, who lives in the other end of the region of Durham? How come it happens in one municipality and not in another?" They went to see their municipal council.

As the minister said in his opening remarks, from the municipalities' point of view, there are a number of places where they can call a halt to this. But the first the ratepayers heard about it was that it would be implemented. Maybe there is a communication problem involving the municipal councils that are considering this and looking at the information they have.

Quite frankly, some of the municipal councilors I talked to about reassessment arguments or moving to market value assessment felt they had not received enough information. They were looking at computer runs around assessment models that were explained in general terms to the council—at least this is what they said—but they had no premonition that there would be dramatic increases in individual property taxes. Of course, if they want to, they can look at the computer runs and say, "Well, we had better phase this in over a five-year period."

There is, as I read the act, no way for a municipality to retract the process, to admit that a mistake was made. They cannot call a halt to market value assessment. They cannot retract market value assessment. Even if they think the greatest injustice in the world has been foisted upon somebody out there, the best they can do is say, "Appeal it."

I understand there are about 750 appeals under way for market value assessment in the town of Newcastle. It will be a similar situation to that of Kitchener in the last couple of years. There will be people lining up at the doors to have a panel hear what is wrong with their assessment. We had a problem related to the same thing here in Toronto only last year.

I had some people from Niagara Falls talk to me. They were essentially concerned about commercial and industrial assessments. Some of their percentages seemed rather out of whack too. They gave me examples of increases of 430 per cent. It is a little hard to imagine how somebody's property tax could go up by that much; but there were also increase of 197 per cent, 75 per cent, 69 per cent, 77 per cent, 86 per cent, 110 per cent, 55 per cent, 53 per cent, 74 per cent, 106 per cent, 120 per cent and 122 per cent.

They left me with a great feeling of anger. They can see an adjustment, but it takes a long stretch of the imagination to say a property tax increase of 197 per cent constitutes an adjustment. They seemed to feel there was something dramatically wrong with the system.

I talked to people on the council, and they are in an unfortunate position. I must say the minister covers himself well in this matter, because hanging on the vine out there are the municipal councils which took someone's suggestion and some staff recommendation to go through with market value assessment.

The municipal councillors often say: "Listen, we talked to our staff and they said this was going to resolve a problem. This is going to right some old wrongs. It is going to put some more money into our municipal coffers." But nobody ever said it was going to rip somebody apart.

For example, the people from Niagara Falls we talked to seemed to feel it was going to put a lot of people out of business down there. I know it is not the stated intention of the minister, but it seems to be the net effect of his actions. I think if someone on a municipal council, whether in Newcastle, Niagara Falls or wherever, made a mistake, there would normally be a process at one's disposal whereby one could recall that error. One could rescind a policy or do something that would right the wrong.

In this instance—as I read the act and as I have heard the minister say on a number of occasions—all of one's chances to admit a mistake are before one makes the mistake. That is a unique situation. There are not many of us who knowingly make errors like that. There are not many of us in any elected position who would set out to create these dramatic increases.

The minister will say again that they could have phased it in. I would be interested in hearing him clarify for me whether there really is any way this can be stopped or corrected after the council has passed its resolution to accept market value assessment. I do not know of a technique in the act that allows them to retract it once it is in.

There is an unfortunate tendency of councils, which are very often dominated by one political party and unfortunately not mine, to accept market value assessment just prior to an election. It comes into effect after a municipal election with, as it is now, about three years for people to forget what might have been a very dramatic error. At some time, the minister will have to address that issue in ways other than those he has now provided.

I recall being involved in debates with other municipal politicians in the mid-1970s about problems of assessment. It is not unfair to say that for most ratepayers it is a bewildering process. They have a difficult time understanding the basis for assessment and what happens when there is an equalization of assessment. Most of them have a very angry situation when a municipality decides to move to market value assessment.

For example, we had a meeting in Newcastle with some of those individuals. Of about 100 people in the hall, five or six had a slight decrease in their municipal property taxes. Even the people who had their property taxes decreased somewhat said: "There is something fishy here. They dropped my taxes by \$10 or \$15 this year, but I see all my neighbours got hammered in this process. I have been alive just long enough to know"—most of the people I talked to that evening were senior citizens—"they might have given me a break this year, but if they screwed all the other people in this room this year, my turn will come later." They seemed to have the premonition that an unfairness visited on others in their community was about to arrive on their doorsteps as well.

There are some things that have to be said about market value assessment, and the first is simply this. Until we rectify the problem of municipal financing and reverse the trend of putting additional expenditures and severe restraint programs on municipal governments—this certainly does not apply to the same degree at Queen's Park—we cannot fiddle around with the assessment. The government will have to stand that one down, and it will not be in a position to rectify what most of us would agree are problems in the area of assessment until such time as there is some protection for ratepayers.

The minister has to give some consideration to unfair situations identified by municipal councils or ratepayers. When a person gets a property tax increase that results for whatever reason in a doubling or tripling of it, there is something wrong. The system of appeals and legal redress available to people is not working. The minister does have to review that.

One notices upon going through the estimates that much of what this ministry does involves publications, public relations work, advertising, handing out cheques and telling people they will get a new cheque. The minister is always making announcements about the cheques being ready, then he makes one about the cheques being mailed, another saying the cheques have been

mailed and another about how they did not screw up too much in mailing out the cheques this time. Then he sends me a letter saying: "We screwed up with only two or three of your people this time, but do not worry. We will now introduce legislation that will allow us to forgive somebody if we gave him a cheque. He should not have received that cheque, but we will not send in the Gestapo to raid his kitchen to get our \$25 back" or whatever it was.

5:20 p.m.

Much of the what the ministry does these days is very much like the Ontario Lottery Corp.: it is handing out money. It has to be one of the few ministries of revenue in the country with a public face that says: "We do not collect money here at the Ministry of Revenue; we give it away. Here is your cheque. We give money to senior citizens; we give money to this group; we give cheques to that group; we give rebates over here." The Ministry of Revenue certainly has an unusual public image in Ontario.

Mr. Stokes: Santa Claus.

Mr. Breaugh: I do not know if I would want to call Santa Claus that kind of name.

But it is unusual at a time when other parts of the ministry's programs are on the decline—when there are cutbacks in staff, when there is an increased use of temporary people across the road in Oshawa—to see that there is an increase in the number of publications that are put out. My office is chock full of little pieces of paper from the Ministry of Revenue telling people about all the good things Revenue does for people in Ontario.

There is an increase, and as we get closer to the election there will be a little more visible stuff. As soon as the election is around the corner, maybe we will not see the minister's smiling face, but I am sure we will see the government of Ontario handing out money to people reminding them, "Your cheque will be here just before Christmas, just when you need it most." We will see the increased advertising around that. There will be little jingles on every radio station in Ontario saying, "The cheque is coming, the cheque is coming." There will be little television spots that will be shown all through the day reminding people that mother Tory is providing for them.

What I always love about all this is that when I was a kid, if you went up to somebody, took \$2 from him and gave him back 50 cents, that was considered to be a crime, but it appears to be the foundation on which this government is building a future election campaign. It collects tax money

from people and then administers, through its computer system and all the systems it has, and gives back a percentage of what it collected in the first place.

I think the prime example of this is the latest one, in which the government is going to give back to visitors to Ontario the sales tax on their hotel accommodation. That is what I call the ultimate chutzpah. The government is going to devise a program that will allow a visitor from Texas or wherever to get back part of a sales tax he has already paid. I would venture, even though the program is not in full bloom yet, that there is not a snowball's chance in hell that people from Texas or Taiwan or France are going to be writing back to Ontario to get the rebate on the room.

If the government really does not want to charge them tax on the room, why does it charge them tax on the room? It seems to me that this would be a slightly more straightforward way to do things. But, of course, that would run directly against the model that has been set up and perpetuated by the ministry. First the government grabs their money, then it gives them back a portion of their money, and they will be ever so grateful.

This whole exercise allows the government to advertise like mad, put out informational booklets like mad and set up its own shilling store over on Grosvenor Street where it hands this stuff out. It has a little walk-in part of the office in Oshawa that is devoted to this kind of stuff. It can respond in 18 languages now to complaints about why they did not get their cheques, all of which is very necessary.

It seems the government will not spare any expense to give people back a portion of their money. That would be wonderful, except that we have to remind ourselves that in the middle of this, it grabs a larger chunk of our money, and we have to content ourselves with being grateful for getting back a nickel on the dollar or whatever the percentage is. It is a rather strange process that is at work.

In his opening remarks, the minister talked about how audits are done, and he said that in Ontario there is not the kind of enemy mentality around tax collection that there is in other jurisdictions, implying that all the problems Revenue Canada has had lately are unseemly, to be polite about it, and certainly would never happen here in Ontario. Perhaps that is because Ontario has really made a dramatic impact and a dramatic change.

Most of us do not think the kid who pumps gas into our car is a tax collector and yet he or she is. Most of us do not remind ourselves that somebody who sells you a deck of smokes or a chocolate bar is a tax collector and yet he is. Most of our points for tax collection involve people whom the public does not associate with tax collectors. These are not folks in pinstripe suits with briefcases who sit down and demand an audit of your books. These are friendly people who sell lottery tickets, hot dogs and everything else in this world.

They are the kids with whom one builds up a little relationship at the local corner service station. In the public mind, they are not visible as tax collectors and yet they are. In fact, I would suspect we have more people like these vendors who are collecting tax money for the minister than he has civil servants collecting tax money.

We have another example this year of an occasion where it is pretty obvious to me that the Ministry of Revenue in Ontario can be—it is not always—just as mean, ugly, nasty, unthinking and uncaring as any other ministry of revenue in the country. My colleague, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) is going to bring this up a little later in these estimates. It is to the minister's credit that it does not happen a lot, but it seems to me every year during the course of these estimates, some member gets up and says, "I have somebody here who was collecting your taxes for you and did not remit the sales tax in time and they just unloaded on him." That happened to a constituent of mine a year ago.

As I said, the member for Lake Nipigon wants to have a little bit of time near the end of these estimates to relate to the minister a case which, when I looked over it, seemed to follow the pattern that when they want to, when they decide for whatever reason that they ought to, the Ministry of Revenue certainly can be a mean piece of business. That spectre of collection fervour is still there, and though they may not do it as often, they certainly do it.

I want to talk a little bit about the Province of Ontario Savings Office, because it was touted in this year's budget that all of the crown agencies out there are open to some kind of a review, up for grabs, to be sold off. I followed some news reports which said one of the things which would perhaps be a likely candidate is POSO. There is a nice little nationalized bank, so to speak. It is rather amazing that a free-enterprise government has, in effect, nationalized a form of bank.

There was a cute line in the estimates briefing material which says one of the reasons Ontario

likes to keep its savings office open is there is access to \$700 million the Treasurer can borrow at preferred rates. Maybe we do not have to worry about our one nationalized bank being sold off to the private sector.

It seems to me the Treasurer is unlikely to sell off or to privatize that little exercise when, as the estimates book says—and it has a nice little phrase for it—something like it gives him access to \$700 million. That is quite a nice little piggy bank he can dip into from time to time. I am not the least bit convinced that he will get rid of or privatize it, or whatever the current trendy word is.

One thing I noticed in the briefing material is an acknowledgement that there are 420,000 inquiries made to the ministry. Maybe that one little number, and I am not one who likes to throw numbers around too much, gives members some indication that there might be something which is not working quite as smoothly as the minister might like. There are upwards of 400,000 inquiries made to the ministry about what they are doing.

As one who works with the legislation the minister brings through, I know it is often very complicated and it often deals with individuals who do not have accountants and lawyers. They are small business people. They are people who do not work with governments on a regular basis and they often get confused about this process.

I think it is true to say with that many inquiries of the ministry, we should acknowledge it ought to signal there are some problems here, and this is a very complicated ministry on the surface of it. It does not usually get into political hot water around here for the most part because we only hear of the tragedies after they have happened. The minister does have a good staff and the most modern of equipment sitting across the road from me in Oshawa. By and large, it does seem to work well. But I think it is an indicator, when they have that many inquiries and that many problems put together, there is difficulty in that.

5:30 p.m.

Another little number which struck me as I went through the book this year is that there are \$250 million worth of tax credits going to two million people. At some point, we would all say right up front: "They are mostly tax credits to senior citizens and you would not want to do anything to hurt senior citizens, would you? Do they not deserve tax credits?"

All that is true, but if one stops to think about it, why do we have a system in place which takes that large an amount of money, \$250 million, and gives it back to two million people? The simple

question I asked initially becomes more important as one goes through the actual activities of the ministry. That should be another indicator that perhaps there is something going on which is not quite a sane process.

I will raise another couple of points that are in the book and one or two that are not. The trend in the ministry is to bring down the number of permanent employees, so the number of people who are involved with the ministry on a temporary basis, whether they are summer students, are on a consultant basis or are GO Temp people is on the increase.

I remain unconvinced that all this numbers shuffling and this moving around of staff really saves anybody any money in the long run. It is probably politically expedient for the minister to be able to say, "We reduced our staff," or, "We only increased it by one or two," or, "Overall, we have a reduction in staff." I remain unconvinced that is a logical way to proceed.

I had some discussions with some of the minister's employees who were quite irate that their whole department had been axed in a budgetary way. The whole department was taken out of existence. Everybody was reshuffled around the ministry, some going to other branches of the ministry and some being asked to go on early retirement. That puts employees in an awkward position.

Many of the minister's employees are unionized. If they were auto workers and General Motors came down and said, "We are going to chop off this part of the assembly line and you people are all out on the street," the normal procedure would be to say: "We want to talk to you about seniority rights. We want to talk to you about transfer rights. We want to talk to you about bumping."

With the way it works in this ministry, it remains true that as an academic budgetary exercise a whole department can get killed. It does not particularly mean there will be fewer people working in the ministry. It does not mean that work will not be done by somebody else in the ministry. It does not mean there will not be virtually the same kind of person, sitting at the same kind of desk, doing the same kind of work the next week. It simply means they will be accounted for in a different way.

When we talk to the people who are directly affected by this, we really begin to feel for them. They are caught. On the one hand, the ministry dangles out a little promise that, "If you do not raise much of a fuss, we will find you another job somewhere in the ministry." On the other hand,

if the employee insists on his rights as an organized employee of the ministry, and wants to have grievances and all that kind of stuff, it is, "When we open up another little position in a different branch of the ministry you will not be considered for it."

Some of the people I talked to were not blue collar workers by a long shot. They were people who had established middle management jobs in the ministry. For example, they were in a situation where they had just moved to Oshawa and bought a new house. They were of an age such as myself where they have one or two kids off at university. They thought they had a good career in the ministry, but somebody strokes a little pen and they are out of business.

Until the ministry decides to relocate them, they are left dangling. They are not going to hit the bricks, that is for sure. They are not going to insist on their rights in the sense a trade unionist would. They are people who say: "What am I? Am I just a number on somebody's account sheet? Do I not count for something?"

Those people were earning good incomes. They are now threatened with a whole dramatic lifestyle change. They have kids and mortgages to look after. I really had some feeling they were cut adrift and, more than that, that people were dangling little carrots which said: "If you shut up, we will find some way to accommodate you. You may not make quite as much money, and perhaps not in a job for which you are qualified or experienced, but somehow we will accommodate you." That problem recurs as one goes through the entire book.

I want to raise one other thing which we have discussed on previous occasions here. The minister is aware a request has gone from Metro to the ministry to do a market value assessment model for Toronto. The minister knows—that is probably why he is the minister—the previous minister did not do much of a public relations job on the kinds of reassessments and how they were done, and on the trendy little phrase called "windshielding" which involves assessment officers driving along the streets.

With windshielding, if a family put an addition on the front of a house, it would get nailed with a reassessment. If one knew the system well enough to put the new addition on the back where the assessment officer could not see it as he drove by, the family would escape that. There was all that furore, and one of the most blatantly unfair forms of assessment was discussed publicly.

The minister at that time said: "I will do this come hell or high water," so to speak. Then there

was a little revolution in the cabinet, or in the halls of parliament here, and he subsequently went on to greater glories as Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe).

The fact still remains that somewhere out there is this computerized model for market value assessment in Toronto. In our discussions about a year ago, we had some arguments about whether the minister at that time would publicly acknowledge the preparation of this model. It involved bringing in people from the assessment offices around Ontario to get this one big model put together, at a cost of about \$3 million.

My informed sources within the ministry told me it was considerably higher than that because a lot of the stuff was done on weekends and in the evenings so it involved a lot of overtime, transportation and accommodation. Whatever the cost, we now know that somewhere, locked in a vault probably, is this model for market value assessment in Metro. It seems to me that we had determined it was finished, in the technical sense, some time last summer. I believe it was to have been done around the end of August.

The document seems to have disappeared. The momentum for bringing market value assessment into Metropolitan Toronto seems to have dissipated somewhat.

Mr. Boudria: Like the last minister.

Mr. Breagh: Yes, maybe the previous minister took it with him when he went; I do not know. But I would like to hear the minister's latest update on where this great model is. What is happening to market value assessment here in Metro Toronto? I think most of us would recognize that should Metro ever accept market value assessment, then it would be the forerunner for most of the remaining municipalities in Ontario to bite that bullet as well.

I wanted to pose those questions to the minister. I invite him to respond when we resume perhaps this evening, or likely next week. I do not want to let him to get away from that original simple question because I am intrigued by it. I would love to see the minister's version of what it really costs to give away money in Ontario in all of its programs. I would like to see him make an effort to do that.

He will probably tell me it is not possible to do this, but I would like to know how much of the advertising campaign, how much of the consulting contracts let out, how much of all of that is rolled into the simple cost of giving away money in Ontario. I look forward to the minister, who is a very straightforward kind of person, making an

attempt to provide us with some estimate of what it really costs to give away money these days.

I will now let my colleague in the Liberal Party, who has resumed his seat in the Legislature from the standing committee on public accounts or some other very important meeting for the earlier part of this afternoon, continue with his opening remarks. I will look forward to what the minister has to say in response maybe later today or next week.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for not being here through all the minister's comments. I will read the ones I did not catch earlier with great interest tonight, as I will those of the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh).

I should point out, as is our custom in the Liberal Party, that the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) will be posing most of the questions dealing with assessment. I believe the minister said in his opening remarks the next step is where we go from here.

I appreciate the effort the minister and his staff made to answer the questions I had placed on Orders and Notices, which the minister indicated to me prior to the opening of his estimates he would attempt to answer during his estimates. I find some of the information he has provided extremely interesting, in particular just leaping through all the legal services that are not required to be tendered under the requirements of Management Board, or the purple peril as it is supposedly known.

I presume most of these are for hearing appeals under the assessment provisions. It is interesting that a quick flip through shows Messrs. Davis and Webb as one of the legal firms doing business with the government. I recognize a lot of well-known people in this group, and they seem to be the same ones year after year.

I would like to talk very briefly about the move to Oshawa, which the minister also refers to in his opening statement, saying how well it has been integrated and so on. I have two quick questions for the minister to keep in mind. First, has the disagreement with the contractor who built the office in Oshawa been resolved? Second, am I correct in believing I heard or read just recently there was some problem with the building? I do not know exactly what the cause was, but people were feeling nauseous, headachy or whatever, and some part of the building could not be used. I wonder if that is true and whether he has found out exactly what the problem was there.

I want to commend the minister and his staff. Of all the estimates I have done over the years, I think the briefing notes are as comprehensive this time as I have ever seen. I was particularly taken with the page, which has no number on it, which gives the financial data under main office, ministry administration, vote 901. At the bottom of that page, it discusses "Activity, Description and Objectives."

I had a little attempt at a debate with the Premier (Mr. Davis) during his estimates last week about accountability in the government. Under this item, I note it states, "The Minister of Revenue is responsible for the ministry to the Premier, the cabinet and the Legislature." I will not get into a long dissertation, but I thought it might be the Legislature, the cabinet and then the Premier. I guess that is the theory, but we all know how it really works in practice around here.

"The deputy minister is responsible to the minister for policy advice, the implementation of government policy instructions and the organization and administration of all the ministry programs. The deputy minister is the chairman of the ministry's executive and technology strategy committees." I am quite happy to see that, again because of the situation we had with the Deputy Minister of Government Services a little while ago, just before Christmas, in the standing committee on public accounts.

That deputy indicated to the public accounts committee he was responsible to the Premier, the cabinet, the people of Ontario and, finally and at long last, to the minister himself. While it may be a very simple matter for some people, I am glad to see the lines of responsibility and accountability are fairly laid out in these briefing notes.

I want to give the minister some advance notice about some of the questions I will be asking, particularly as they relate to the sales tax program. I am always taken with the difficulty, or almost with the contradictions, in what is taxable and what is not. I note we still have this sort of abiding problem where, if you go into a little restaurant serving coffee and you buy doughnuts, I believe the doughnuts are taxable; but if you buy doughnuts in a place does not serve coffee, soft drinks or whatever, the doughnuts are not taxable and so on. The rhyme and reason for some of these matters is not evident.

I am also going to be asking the minister about ministry administration. We note that while there are fewer employees in the branch this year, the total expenditures are up by 23.7 per cent from the 1983-84 estimates and up by about 18.2 per cent from the 1983-84 audited actuals.

I also note that in answer to one of my questions the minister indicated the number of contract employees and how much that came to. I may be wrong in this, and I will have a better chance to come at it again when we go back, but on page 4 of the minister's answer to question 47 placed on the Orders and Notices by me, he indicated that Revenue currently has 213 regular contract employees, 26 GO Temp employees, five agency temporary employees and 25 systems development consultants. The total cost for these services was \$9 million in 1981-82 and just a little over \$10 million in 1982-83.

It is one of those situations where some of us who listen to the government, particularly the Treasurer and the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague), talk about how they are cutting back on the actual numbers of civil servants in the province and so on are just a little sceptical when we see those kinds of figures and also when we look at the management consulting people, the technical consultants and so on.

I also want to ask the minister what the incentive funding is for replacement of the ministry's financial reporting system; it has caused an increase of approximately \$640,000 in service expenditures, which seem to be up by about 206 per cent over the previous year. This is one item, frankly, I do not quite understand; I do not understand what this whole situation is about.

I also recall that when we had the deputy minister before the standing committee on public accounts—the member for Mississauga East was not the minister at that point—we did have an audit done by the auditor at the request of the committee. At that time, the committee indicated there was some concern about the documentation of the procedures within the ministry as they related to electronic data processing.

There are, I believe, 25 consultants who are dealing, I presume, with strategic planning. I presume most of this is related to the electronic data processing function of the Ministry of Revenue, which obviously has to account for a great deal of the actual work done within the ministry. As we go through the estimates, I wonder whether we could perhaps get some broader information as it relates to that particular situation.

The other thing I noticed in the briefing material related to that is the matter of planning, strategy, security and so on. Security is a matter that has been of increasing concern both to members of the Legislature and to the standing committee on public accounts.

5:50 p.m.

I believe the minister responsible for suppressing freedom of information in the province indicated recently that this whole matter of security of information—security with respect to an individual or a group coming in and seizing this kind of equipment and perhaps making use of it or holding it for ransom and also with respect to physical security against fire, theft and that sort of thing—seems to be a continuing problem.

I understand the ministry has made some strides in this regard, but I would like to have fuller details about how adequate the minister feels those are. I do not want to know exactly how it is being done because, obviously, we do not want other people to have that information. The security of the information, both of the information contained and of the actual physical equipment, is extremely important.

Skimming over this matter again, I see the ministry is using two different types of computers. I presume they are for different approaches. I wonder how compatible they are with the rest of the government computer system.

One of the things that concerned me as we went through this matter in the standing committee on public accounts a few years ago was that while we were told there was a great deal of planning and organization going on across the government, and I believe the minister's deputy is a member of the strategic group—whose name I cannot remember, but it is nice, long and sounds very important—responsible for planning for computers across the ministry, one continues to get the impression there is not the expertise in the government there should be. The minister will then tell me that is why we have these outside consultants.

Not only is there not a co-ordinated approach across government in this regard, but a lot of this machinery may not be compatible one with another. One of the government members of the time indicated he did not feel the requirements and strategy were in place in regard to this significant expenditure, even though we were spending upwards of \$180 million on this. This was not only in the Ministry of Revenue, but in other ministries.

The member for Oshawa at one point was calling everybody a tax collector. I wonder if the minister could put all those people on the payroll and expand his little empire, if everybody who collects retail sales tax in Ontario was included in that employment statistic. I wonder if the ministry has any thought of raising or doing anything with the limits on paying people who

collect the retail sales tax. Being home in my riding on the weekend as I usually am, I should tell my friend from Oshawa that the New Democratic Party government in Manitoba has taken certain steps to put a cap on the gross or net amount any retail operation can be paid by the Ministry of Revenue for collecting retail sales tax.

I have in my hand one of these things that, frankly, always gets me. It is called *Revenews* 1983, souvenir issue, Ministry of Revenue, Ontario; Bud Gregory, Minister, T. M. Russell, Deputy Minister. I would like to know how much this little dilly-do cost the grateful taxpayers, how many copies were printed and to whom they were distributed.

It is interesting that it is not until somewhat later on, near the back of the booklet, that we find the pictures of all the politicians.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Not all.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Not all. That is the interesting point. It was obviously in the works before the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe) left us. Generally, these pictures are found in the front pages. In full bloom on the back page are the Premier himself, the present minister and Mr. Russell, who takes the best picture of the bunch. I would like to know what was the cost of distribution of that publication.

I also want to say one quick word about the small business development corporations. I would like to go into them in some depth. I was interested in the Treasurer's remarks about the \$7 million going to northern Ontario and eastern Ontario. The minister made reference to SBDCs in his opening statement. I would like to know exactly how he is going to funnel that money and why, when the program was the great success it was, the amount, as I understand it, was cut from \$30 million to \$25 million this year.

I would also like to see the report, and perhaps the minister has made it public, by—I believe it was Price Waterhouse; I cannot remember the firm that did the study.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The Treasurer commissioned it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: If I want a copy of it, I have to get it from the Treasurer. Is that what the minister is telling me? I see.

It was interesting in that report, which obviously the press has got and perhaps it has been made public—as I say, I have been away—to note that the consultants who did that report did not seem to hold out much hope for SBDCs working in a public sense. If they were going to be successful, and I think in many cases they

have been, it would be through the private sector, rather than the public sector, garnering these funds together and using them in that way.

I would like to discuss this in detail, particularly some of the SBDCs that have not been overly successful and find out from the minister what, if any, steps he has taken to monitor this matter further, either through his own ministry or in conjunction with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie). I will not talk about the Lake Rosseau business and the Nelma

corporation, some of which we can get into in detail, but I think I would be interested in having some of those details when we come to discuss them under the various votes.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my very brief opening remarks. I do want to tell the minister that, as is my wont, I will be asking about the actual funds expended during his estimates.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gregory, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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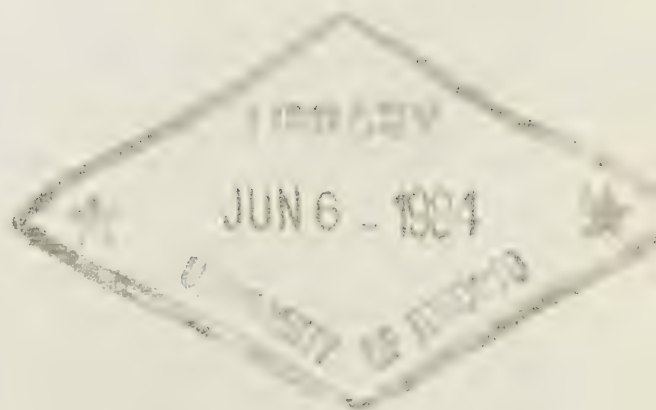
Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, May 28, 1984
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 28, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

YOUNG OFFENDERS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 28, An Act to provide for the Implementation of the Young Offenders Act (Canada).

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly pleased that the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Fish) is here this evening. It probably means I will get a ride home.

When I adjourned the debate on Tuesday evening, April 17, it was because the minister had suggested there was some urgency about getting on with the bill. I cannot yet understand what the six weeks' delay is about, but I am sure he will speak to that issue when he responds on second reading of the bill.

I want to touch on the Bluewater question, which was my matter for discussion when we concluded the debate that evening. The Bluewater Centre was the subject of an application by me on behalf of our caucus that there should be an environmental assessment of the need to convert it into some kind of detention centre for young offenders.

Members will recall the anomaly of having the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) making the proposal, which was then pursued by the Ministry of Government Services, to use the Bluewater premises for the purposes of the Ministry of Correctional Services and establish a place in which young offenders would be held for a considerable period of time.

Before I move on to other matters related to the Young Offenders Act, I want to state the categorical opposition of this party, and I hope of everyone who is concerned about the changes to be brought about as a result of the passage of the Young Offenders Act in Ottawa, to the treatment of young offenders by the establishment of that centre at the former Bluewater home for retarded people.

I want to state very clearly to the minister, in the atmosphere of a debate far removed from partisanship, some of my concerns about the establishment of that centre. The first one underlies fundamentally the concern we have had

for some time about the failure of the government to resolve the dual ministry conflict about who is going to deal with young offenders in so far as the problem of dealing with young offenders is related to provincial jurisdiction.

I expect it will take a little bit of time this evening for me to express clearly to the minister the concerns I have about the number of areas that have not been dealt with to any extent at all in this assembly, where implementing the federal Young Offenders Act in Ontario impinges on provincial matters for which we have had no response of any significance from the government.

If there are matters the minister believes I have not had the opportunity to consider or I have overlooked in my consideration of the issues I want to raise this evening, then I will be the first to be anxious to review those considerations.

It is essential to us that this bill go out to a committee for proper hearings because of the number of people concerned about it. I want to come back to that, because I know we are on second reading of the bill.

I just want to deal with the fact that my Liberal colleague the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), who has a direct interest because of the Bluewater conversion in his riding, expressed some concerns and some considerations in relation to it. I want to speak more generally about my concerns about the conversion of that Bluewater facility.

The first one has to do with the dual ministry problems, which make it absolutely impossible for any group of people who are interested in young offenders to decide what the criteria are on which they can deal with the government about those questions.

It is not just a problem of whether the government is determined to have a dual ministry responsibility; that is, after April 1, 1985, a responsibility under the Ministry of Correctional Services for young offenders who are 16 and 17 years of age and under the Ministry of Community and Social Services with respect to those offenders between the ages of 12 and 16.

That is what I mean by the dual ministry responsibility. It is a fundamental, arbitrary division of responsibility that bears no reality in

relation to the differences between a person when he is 14, 15, 16, or 17 and the problems that creates.

If it were simply a question of the inability of the government to resolve a jurisdictional dispute between the two ministries, regardless of what communication is taking place between them, I would not be particularly concerned that in due course it might ultimately be resolved.

However, that fundamental problem of the government, coupled with the provision in the Young Offenders Implementation Act that persons 14 years of age and over can be transferred to adult court in relation to criminal matters and be subject to the jurisdiction of the criminal process, leads me to believe this House, in a nonpartisan sense, requires a very clear statement from the ministry.

We need to know the ministry's position so we do not find that all his ministry deals with is persons with no criminal liability up to the age of 12 years under other legislation and then find out he deals with young offenders 12 to 14 years of age, and that because we are going to pursue a traditional model of correctional services for people who come from the criminal courts, it will become a tradition in Ontario that persons over the age of 14 are subject to the bias of the courts to transfer them to the criminal jurisdiction of the adult system. This is a matter on which we need a fundamental and clear statement from the ministry.

8:10 p.m.

I know the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) will say the court deals with those matters. That is not the case, as they know it to be the case, because the basic, fundamental problem is dollars and facilities and availability in the courts of the Ministry of Community and Social Services with respect to young offenders.

I do not have a conception of the Young Offenders Implementation Act which suggests we will solve all the problems in the future, but what is good about that philosophy will be lost because of the government's incapacity to deal with the fundamental questions involved in it.

One does not have to be a knowledgeable person in the field of corrections or in the field of treatment and services available to young offenders to understand that their care and treatment require a commitment of philosophy and policy by this government which is so far lacking.

The government may very well say to me, "Yes, we do have a philosophy, and yes, we do

have a commitment to young offenders." If that is so, regardless of the discussion paper available in 1980 about the options related to it, nothing has come through by way of policy. I reiterate that in some substantial way this government is immobilized in relation to clarity of policy on this issue.

I say this with considerable humility and a great deal of additional ignorance on my part. Can the minister conceive of anything that reflects a policy of concern or a philosophy of change with respect to the young offenders when they were to isolate 174—I think that is the figure; I am not certain about what the capacity will be up at Bluewater Centre—in that part of the province, when any of the papers going back to the 1960s and 1970s indicates quite clearly that one of the essential and fundamental conditions is that young offenders be related to the society in which they are going to have to spend the rest of their adult years?

We do not serve any purpose by complete isolation in a maximum security setting. It does not matter what the parameters of that centre will be. It is in an area of the province where there are very few services. I am talking about the kind of supportive services that could be available to a place such as the Bluewater Centre if it were broken down into any number of centres close to other areas of the major parts of southern Ontario.

There is the question of access with respect to the families of the persons confined in such centres. There is the question of the relationship with the educational institutions that would be a nucleus within which those persons who were detained as young offenders could have some relationship with respect to their counselling, with respect to their future lives, with respect to their educational capacities and with respect to the day care that is an integral part of the process of temporary absence for young offenders under the Young Offenders Act.

I think it is the obligation of the minister to answer those questions and, if he will not do it, the obligation of the Minister of Correctional Services; and I always notice that when the one is present to discuss this matter the other is absent. However, I have the feeling that there is no way one can reflect in the Bluewater conversion the philosophy of the Young Offenders Act with respect to what can be done for the persons at that centre in relation to their re-entry to normal life and normal society.

If the minister thinks for one moment that the Bluewater Centre, in the Goderich area, is

capable of meeting those requirements, then he has to think a great deal about the question. Indeed, if he persists, along with his colleagues, in that misguided policy, I will just assume it is confirmation of the very fundamental and basic concerns I have about his inability, because of the restriction of dollars, to comprehend the philosophical change that one is endeavouring to bring about under the Young Offenders Act of Canada.

This raises very fundamental problems, and I do not suggest for one moment that I can answer all of them; but I can certainly say that the purposes for which this centre is being converted have nothing to do with the implementation, so far as provincial responsibilities are concerned, of the philosophy inherent in the Young Offenders Act.

I am concerned unalterably with the fact that the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), the Minister of the Environment, had so little conception or understanding of this kind of problem that he would have accepted, without adequate terms of reference, the referral to the advisory committee and the result that he confirmed the decision of this advisory committee that there would be no environmental assessment.

No matter how you look at the terms of the Environmental Assessment Act—and I know the Minister of Community and Social Services is not familiar with the terms of that act—when that act came through the assembly, it was very clear that the impact of any environmental assessment had a relationship to the impact the assessment would have on the people who were to be in the environment on which the decision was going to be made.

Of course, as usual, the government misses the fundamental point. It is not a question with respect to the other part of the environment about that centre being in that physical location for those people who are out and around and surrounding that centre. The fundamental question about that environmental conversion, which the Minister of the Environment does not understand, which the Minister of Community and Social Services does not understand, which the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe) did not understand and which the Minister of Correctional Services will never understand, is the impact of that centre on the persons who will be incarcerated there under the Young Offenders Act, which was supposed to mirror a different philosophy.

8:20 p.m.

I can assure the minister, knowing as I do of his interest in these matters, that if we have 174 persons—if that is the correct figure—under a security system in one place in this province because they are there with respect to the Young Offenders Act, there is not a single count of correctional philosophy that can support the impact of that environment on those persons in any positive sense.

I wish I could express that in some one-liner. I do not have that capacity. I am going to try again to say that environment has its maximum impact on those persons who will be the inmates of that converted institution. They are the ones who will suffer from the recalcitrant attitude of the government in not understanding. That was the reason, in my name and on behalf of our party, I put in a request for an environmental assessment.

I may not have expressed it well. I made an application to the Ministry of the Environment on a proposal developed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services that was put forward by the Ministry of Government Services for a facility to be available to the Ministry of Correctional Services so 174 young offenders may, at some time, find themselves in that area. I tried to express in the best way I could what a lousy environment that would be within the philosophy of the Young Offenders Act. I find it extremely difficult to understand why I then find that in no way do I get anything but a couple of cursory letters in response to my concern about it.

The minister may not understand me when I say I am not being partisan about it. I do not think it is a partisan matter. I think it is far beyond anything that could be called partisan. I am fundamentally concerned about the environment in that physical structure in that particular world with respect to the people on whom it will have the massive impact.

It is not a question of the surrounding environment and what impact it will have. It is a question of what impact it will have on 174 young people over a period of time in that particular area of the province. I find it passing strange that there is no way I can get that point across. One cannot find a single, correctional person, anybody knowledgeable in the field of corrections, who will support that proposition in any way, shape or form.

I defy the government, I challenge it and I put the issue clearly before it that there is nobody it can call in support, and there is no document it can call in support.

If one wants to go back in the questions on it, I would refer to a document prepared as long ago as March 1963. It is a document signed by the executive secretary of the Canadian Corrections Association. The document is on the letterhead of the Canadian Welfare Council in Ottawa. It was prepared by the Canadian Corrections Association, now called the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Crime, and it is headed "Criteria for Prison Location and Structure."

I am asking the minister to go back to it. The principles set out in that document are as valid and fundamental today as they were on that occasion.

I want to leave the Bluewater conversion question, not because it is a matter of some isolation, but because I believe I have, if it is possible for me to communicate them to the government, tried to fasten upon the concerns we have about the conversion of that centre. What the government may do in northern Ontario or eastern Ontario to establish an equivalent facility is of no satisfaction to me. The principle is wrong, the concerns involved in it are misguided and the understanding of what is required is unbelievable to me.

I am pleased the Minister of Government Services, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Community and Social Services are in the House tonight. I do not know where the Ministry of Correctional Services stands on this area, but that ministry will operate it.

Hon. Mr. Snow: What about De Grassi Street?

Mr. Renwick: I know my friend has been busy studying the De Grassi Street GO train operation. I do not mind. I will continue. I happen to have a great respect for the Minister of Community and Social Services, as I do for the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow). I know if they do not hear what I say tonight they will read it later in the *Instant Hansard*.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I have been listening very attentively.

Mr. Renwick: The important and fundamental point I want to make before I leave the Bluewater conversion is to say to three of the four ministers concerned who are present that the environmental assessment of the impact of that facility on the persons who will occupy it is perverse if the government goes ahead with it. I want them to try to understand that because it is fundamental to the concern many people have about the government's incapacity to deal, except on this chop and change, piecemeal

basis, with the fundamental changes with which the Young Offenders Act is attempting to deal.

I have gone on at some length on that subject, but I feel it illustrates for me in a very pivotal sense the kind of concerns we have about it. As I move on and reflect a little on the bill before us, I want to say to the minister, and this is implicit in what I have said about the Bluewater conversion, we have passed the formal statutes in this province to make the courts that will deal with young offenders under the Young Offenders Act, the provincial court, family division and the unified family court as it exists in the Hamilton-Wentworth part of the province.

I realize we have filled in the other part of the patchwork involved in the problem of the Young Offenders Act only dealing with the Criminal Code and acts of the Parliament of Canada and not dealing with provincial offences and other matters. We have filled that in by saying, for the purposes of the Provincial Offences Act, that is offences against provincial law, the same courts will deal with them as far as young offenders are concerned, that is the provincial court, family division, and the unified family court to the extent it has jurisdiction on a project basis in one area of the province.

8:30 p.m.

I want to mention on that point what this government is really saying is: "We will accept the Young Offenders Act on the basis of minimal change. We will deal with it only on a procedural basis. We will fill in the gap of the abdication," if one wants to call it that, "of the federal government to deal with young offenders in a provincial law situation. We will deal with it simply by saying, 'Oh, well, the same courts will deal with the matter.'"

These are the same courts, mind you, that have dealt with juveniles in the province for some time, and we do not have any understanding that it is anything other than a checkerboard change to fill the gaps that have been provided in relation to the provincial government.

There is nothing in those two bills—and they are bills we passed in the last session: Bill 149, An Act to amend the Provincial Courts Act, and the Unified Family Court Amendment Act, which simply designated the provincial court, family division, and the unified family court, on an interim basis, as the youth courts for the purposes of the federal Young Offenders Act.

I do not know what "on an interim basis" may mean; I do not know, and I do not think the government knows. I think it is obviously a stopgap kind of legislation in order to reserve

some ultimate decision, which probably will not be any different from what exists now.

The other bill we passed in the last session of this parliament was Bill 140, the Provincial Offences Statute Law Amendment Act, 1983, which simply provided that at present—that is, at that time—a person under the age of 16 who was alleged to have violated a provincial statute or municipal bylaw was prosecuted under the Juvenile Delinquents Act of Canada. However, the new Young Offenders Act will apply only to young persons alleged to have violated the Criminal Code and other federal statutes.

It is proposed that the Provincial Offences Act, with certain modifications contained in the new part V-A, apply to young persons alleged to have committed provincial offences. However, young persons will be tried by judges of the provincial court, family division, and of the unified family court.

I simply want to draw to the attention of the assembly that, so far as the assembly has been activated to legislate on matters related to the Young Offenders Act, these matters have not changed in any sense whatsoever the procedures that are involved with respect to young offenders; all the provincial government has done is to adopt the necessary adaptation to provide that, as the federal government withdrew and required the provincial government to designate youth courts, it designated the existing courts.

In so far as the federal government withdrew in the field of jurisdiction to only federal statutes, including the Criminal Code, which is by far the most significant one, the provincial government simply moved in to fill the gap and said that the provincial court, family division, would have jurisdiction with respect to provincial offences committed by young offenders.

So this did not mirror any change. I need not refer the assembly to questions that were raised by a number of members of this caucus in various estimates to try to get the ministries to respond to what their fundamental response was. It was very much akin to what the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations said today.

He introduced a bill to amend the Theatres Act, and it was entirely on the basis that there was no principle involved but only that the guidelines that had been followed for many years had been struck down by the court because they were not in regulations and therefore, in a technical sense, were not law. All the government was doing was to introduce to the assembly a technical amendment that would provide for the same guidelines

and then, of course, extend them to the question of videotapes.

I did not hear any member of the government talk about a principle of freedom of expression of any kind. That is what this government always does. They always want to mute and play down any change as though it has no significance of any kind to anybody, as if everything will continue exactly as it was before and that no changes are required.

The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations twitted the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) on the proposition that maybe he had not read the decisions of the court. The decision of the Divisional Court, which came to the same conclusion, was quite different from the reading of the decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal. It simply said that was not necessarily the case.

The minister admitted that he did not say he was going to wait for this bill to come into force after the decision on the appeal. I understand there is an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada on that issue. He wanted to pretend that nothing had ever happened.

I do not intend to engage in a second reading debate on that bill, but I wanted to illustrate to the members that this is exactly what is happening on the question of the response of the government of Ontario to the Young Offenders Act. They do not want anybody to think anything has changed, but that life will always go on as it has, that there is nothing important with respect to the change in relation to the treatment of young offenders, and all that the federal government is doing is bringing their law into line with the kind of philosophy and treatment that young offenders have had in Ontario, on the theory again, whether you attribute it to the federal government or to Anatole France, that is the "best of all possible worlds."

I do not believe that is so. We have had no positive response from the government on this question of their response to the effort to change the attitude of people about the young offender world. The best statement of it is young people in conflict with the law. Nobody knows the answer to it. That is why I say it is not a question of partisan discussion. It is not as if anybody knew the proper response to the Young Offenders Act, let alone Ontario's response to it.

I want to reiterate that I speak both with humility and from ignorance because it is not a field in which I am knowledgeable, other than the fact I am concerned about the fundamental problem that is put before us. So far as I am

aware, there is no cohesive social, legal theory of young people in conflict with the law. There just is not an adequate theory that supports what the Parliament of Canada has done or the attitude of the provincial government in adapting to the change which is required.

One person has subtitled a book which he wrote about it, *The Great Stumble into the Future*, in recognition that the past has not been good enough but that we must carry on until we find some better solution to the questions of young people in conflict with the law.

8:40 p.m.

As usual, I speak only because of things other people have had to say and matters I have read about and that are of concern to me.

Some members may not have recognized that on many occasions in this assembly in the late 1960s and 1970s we raised questions with respect to young people in the courts and the philosophy of those matters. We dealt at that time with some matters that were raised in the United States, because at that time we did not have a Charter of Rights and the Canadian Bill of Rights was of little if any assistance, not because of the substance of it but because of the way the courts had dealt with it.

I want to put to the House and to the minister the conundrum of the problem of young people in conflict with the law as legislators have attempted to deal with it. At the Supreme Court of the United States at that time was the case *re Gault*, which was the case related to young persons before the courts in the United States on the basis of their Bill of Rights. Abe Fortas, who was then a justice of that court, had this to say. He was talking about the philosophy of juvenile treatment in the court system, and this is applicable to the Juvenile Delinquents Act and to the Young Offenders Act as we will know it from now on.

He said: "These results were to be achieved without coming to conceptual and constitutional grief by insisting that the proceedings were not adversary, but that the state was proceeding as *parens patriae*. The Latin phrase proved to be a great help to those who sought to rationalize the exclusion of juveniles from the constitutional scheme. But its meaning is murky and its historical credentials are of dubious relevance. The phrase was taken from chancery practice where, however, it was used to describe the power of the state to act in *loco parentis* for the purpose of protecting the property interests and the person of the child, but there is no trace of the doctrine in the history of criminal jurisprudence."

Mr. Justice Fortas then concluded: "The incorporation of *parens patriae* into the criminal law has produced a system of tyranny." Let me just interpose there that this is what our Juvenile Delinquents Act attempted to do and the problem is as yet unresolved—the position of the state to intervene in the place of the parents on behalf of young offenders who are in conflict with the law because the parents cannot deal with it, on the one hand, and because of the question of the criminal law and its application, on the other hand, to young people within a framework of constitutional rights.

Mr. Justice Fortas went on to say: "The right of the state as *parens patriae* to deny the child procedural rights available to his elders was elaborated by the assertion that a child, unlike an adult, has a right not to liberty, but to custody. He can be made to return to his parents, to go to school, etc. If his parents default in effectively performing their custodial functions, that is if the child is delinquent, the state may intervene. In doingso, it does not deprive the child of any rights because he has none. It merely provides the custody to which the child is entitled. On this basis, proceedings involving juveniles were described as civil, not criminal, and therefore not subject to the requirements which restrict the state when it seeks to deprive a person of his liberty.

"Accordingly, the highest motives and the most enlightened impulses led to a peculiar system for juveniles unknown to our law in any comparable context. The constitutional and theoretical basis for this peculiar system is, to say the least, debatable. The results have not been entirely satisfactory. Juvenile court history has again demonstrated that unbridled discretion, however benevolently motivated, is frequently a poor substitute for principle and procedure."

I believe that basically reflects the problem which led the Parliament of Canada seriously to reconsider the question of young offenders in relation to the federal statute of the Juvenile Delinquents Act. In Canada a national scheme could be created only within the confines of the federal criminal law power and not as social or welfare legislation. Even under the new act there exists to this day a continuing clash, with some alleviation, between philosophy and implementation.

We are all aware that the Juvenile Delinquents Act was passed by the Parliament of Canada in 1908. The records indicate the debate on second reading, in committee and on third reading took exactly 10 minutes. An effort was made to talk

about a revision of that act and a new bill, Bill C-192, was introduced into Parliament in 1970. It was called by the same name, the Young Offenders Act. I have the privilege of quoting to the assembly what my colleague for many years, the member for Broadview in the federal House, had to say about that bill when it was introduced in 1970.

I am referring to Bill C-192 which is perhaps illustrative of the length of time it takes us to think about the kinds of problems involved in relation to young people in conflict with the law. Part of my purpose tonight is to slow down the process so we do not believe that we in this assembly can do what was done in 10 minutes in 1908. The assembly has a fundamental and important role to deal with this bill before us, Bill 28, An Act to provide for the Implementation of the Young Offenders Act (Canada).

My colleague John Gilbert, who now sits on the bench in Toronto, had this to say about the government's bill in 1970: "Every time I read Bill C-192 I wonder who is responsible for this criminal law monstrosity, this caveman's approach to young people, this bill of rights for social wrongs, this simplistic Spiro Agnew approach to young people's problems.

"Here are some of the criticisms set forth by responsible bodies. It is called 'a half-pint Criminal Code for children,' 'inhuman and intolerable,' 'a frightening piece of legislation,' 'the title is misleading, inappropriate and a step backward,' 'its legalistic terminology, offender, offences, inmates, fingerprinting, pardoned, criminal records, make it a junior Criminal Code,' 'the approach is punitive,' and 'classifying a 10-year-old as an offender is ludicrous.'"

8:50 p.m.

My colleague, then the member for Broadview, was one of many both in the Conservative Party and in other parties who spoke against that bill. It died and was withdrawn by the government. It went back to the drawing board for reconsideration and came forward again to public light in 1975 when the "young offenders in conflict with the law" proposal was put forward with a draft bill called the Young Offenders Act, which called for a return to the procedural safeguards of the adult criminal justice system.

I think this is the proper point at which we should try to think a little bit about what we are doing in this assembly. This is not one of the areas in which we can say it is a federal matter and we are a provincial Legislature. The major areas of alleviation of the provisions of the Young Offenders Act, and the appropriate steps

that have been taken to provide for the procedural protections of young offenders under the Charter of Rights, fall upon this government. This House has had no response as far as I am aware.

I happen to believe there should be a return to procedural safeguards within the framework of any well-established method of dealing with young offenders in conflict with the law. I want to draw attention to that distinction in comparing the phraseology of the Juvenile Delinquents Act and that of the Young Offenders Act. The Juvenile Delinquents Act was clearly a nonpunitive statute. Under that act, a juvenile was not convicted or sentenced, but "adjudged" and "dealt with." At all times he was to be treated "not as a criminal, but as a misdirected and misguided child and one needing aid, encouragement and assistance."

It will be quite evident there is in this very statement a curious mixture of criminal law and social philosophy. It is that continuing inherent contradiction that we are endeavouring in this assembly in our old way to make some progress in resolving. I happen to believe the Juvenile Delinquents Act left us a legacy of unfulfilled promise. I want to quote Mr. Justice Fortas again in the case of *Kent v. the United States*, which in my view and in the view of other people is equally applicable to Canada.

"While there can be no doubt of the original, laudable purposes of juvenile courts, studies and critiques in recent years raise serious questions as to whether actual performance measures well enough against theoretical purpose to make tolerable the immunity of the process from the reach of constitutional guarantees applicable to adults. There is evidence, in fact, that there may be grounds for concern that the child receives the worst of both worlds, that he gets neither the protections accorded to adults nor the solicitous care and regenerative treatment postulated for children."

I believe that tells us the conundrum we are faced with in this assembly when the government asks us to accept Bill 28 tonight. We are prepared to make an act of faith in accepting the Young Offenders Act that was passed by the Parliament of Canada. I have attempted very briefly to give some indication that it is not a matter of instantaneous solution, but a matter that has concerned persons who are interested in this field over a long period of time.

The gestation period of the Young Offenders Act has indeed been long, but the process has been obviously thought to be worth while.

I want to move to the actual Young Offenders Act and to speak a little bit about what it was intended to accomplish when it was passed. I am asking the House, as always, to be patient with me when I go on at some length on matters that are of this kind of concern. I know the members will; if they will not, I will proceed anyway.

When the Honourable Robert Kaplan introduced this bill in the assembly in 1981, he had this to say about what was intended by the proposed legislation of the Young Offenders Act:

"The proposed legislation blends three principles. The first is that young people should be held more responsible for their behaviour, but not wholly accountable, since they are not yet fully mature and are dependent on others.

"The second point is that society has a right to protection from illegal behaviour, even though committed by a minor.

"The third point is that young persons have the same rights to due process of law, natural justice and fair and equal treatment as adults, and that these rights must be guaranteed by special safeguards.

"Thus, the bill is intended to strike a reasonable and acceptable balance between the needs of young offenders and the interests of society."

Let me try to indicate how those three principles are reflected in the Young Offenders Act, which we are asked to implement in Ontario by Bill 28, which is before us for consideration. The principles of that bill translated into the language of the actual statute are set out in section 3 of Bill C-61, which is now the law of Canada and in force in Ontario. Section 3 is headed "Declaration of Principle."

Members will know it is not customary to have in statutes in Ontario declarations of principle, but when principles are declared, then it is important to understand that they govern the whole of the application of that statute. In this case, it has this to say:

"It is hereby recognized and declared that:

"(a) while young persons should not in all instances be held accountable in the same manner or suffer the same consequences for their behaviour as adults, young persons who commit offences should none the less bear responsibility for their contraventions;

"(b) society must, although it has the responsibility to take reasonable measures to prevent criminal conduct by young persons, be afforded the necessary protection from illegal behaviour;

"(c) young persons who commit offences require supervision, discipline and control, but because of their state of dependency and level of

development and maturity, they also have special needs and require guidance and assistance;

"(d) where it is not inconsistent with the protection of society, taking no measures or taking measures other than judicial proceedings under this act should be considered for dealing with young persons who have committed offences;

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"(e) young persons have rights and freedoms in their own right, including those stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms or in the Canadian Bill of Rights, and in particular a right to be heard in the course of, and to participate in, the processes that lead to decisions that affect them, and young persons should have special guarantees of their rights and freedoms;

"(f) in the application of this act, the rights and freedoms of young persons include a right to the least possible interference with freedom that is consistent with the protection of society, having regard to the needs of young persons and the interests of their families;

"(g) young persons have the right, in every instance where they have rights or freedoms that may be affected by this act, to be informed as to what those rights and freedoms are; and

"(h) parents have responsibility for the care and supervision of their children, and, for that reason, young persons should be removed from parental supervision either partly or entirely only when measures that provide for continuing parental supervision are inappropriate."

Subsection 3(2) states: "This act shall be liberally construed to the end that young persons will be dealt with in accordance with the principles set out in subsection (1)."

As members can see, to express in a statute the principles of balance that a minister may make in a statement is not an easy process; and for this assembly to treat as an innocuous procedural bill, a bill that is to provide for the implementation of that act in Ontario in regard to the elements set forth in the declaration of principle in the statute that governs us, would be a complete abdication when we recognize that the implementation of every one of those principles under our federal Constitution lies with the courts and with the ministries of the government to the extent that the matters are not treated solely as court matters.

That is why the involvement of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Correctional Services and the government as a whole in response to that fundamental and basic philosophy is, to me in any event, of basic importance.

When that statute talks about young offenders and the Charter of Rights and says that young people are entitled to those rights, as I have reiterated, then whether one understands it or not, this is a fundamental change in the law of this province in relation to young offenders.

Those rights are set out in the charter. I need not necessarily read all of them, but they are contained in sections 7 to 14 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They refer to such matters as the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure; the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned; the right to be informed promptly of the reasons for arrest and detention; the right to retain and instruct counsel without delay and to be informed of that right; the right to have the validity of detention determined by way of habeas corpus and to be released if the detention is not lawful; and the other provisions set out in sections 7 to 14 of the Charter of Rights, including the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual punishment, the right to be protected against self-incrimination and the right of interpretation in the courts.

Those are available. Perhaps I should have put them on the record in full simply because sometimes we take them too much for granted. I am not going to tarry; they are available to anybody who wants to be interested in this topic. However, it is of fundamental importance to this province in its obligations of implementation that we understand the part of section 3 which I quoted:

"Young persons have rights and freedoms in their own right, including those stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms or in the Canadian Bill of Rights, and in particular a right to be heard in the course of, and to participate in, the processes that lead to the decisions that affect them, and young people should have special guarantees of their rights and freedoms."

That is fundamental to what we are concerned about with respect to the government's policies about implementation.

I believe the government could have dispelled our concerns and fears—I speak not just for myself; I am sure I speak for any other member of the assembly who is interested in these problems—had it made a statement up front, clearly and positively, with respect to its commitment to those declarations of principle which are inherent in that act.

You know, sir, that my particular responsibilities are with respect to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W.

Taylor), the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) and the Minister of Correctional Services, but I have not heard from any ministry of the government a commitment with respect to the Young Offenders Act.

The only positive statement that has ever come forward from this government is the statement that was made at the 23rd annual Premiers' conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from August 24 to August 26, 1982. That statement was not concerned about an acceptance of the philosophy, or an indication that they understood or embraced the philosophy. It was basically a question of what number of dollars were they going to get from the federal government because the federal government quite properly had passed a statute that on the one hand transferred certain very substantial obligations on to the provincial government and, secondly, left the implementation of that new philosophy to the provincial government.

I am not one who thinks monetary matters and costs are unimportant. Those are legitimate concerns; but they are not legitimate concerns if the government does not say that we in this province propose to accept wholeheartedly the kinds of matters that are of immense concern about the treatment of young persons in conflict with the law.

I could go on to other areas, and I intend to cover some of them in the hope that they will illustrate the places where the obligation to carry out and implement, in the language of the bill before us, is on the province and to indicate that so far as I am concerned, the government has never expressed a sense, either collectively or individually by responsible ministers, for that particular implementation.

9:10 p.m.

For example, with respect to the police, quite obviously the role of the police will be substantially altered by the Young Offenders Act and its implementation in Ontario. First of all, it is limited to acts of the Parliament of Canada, including the Criminal Code. It is quite obvious that it also limits that area of discretion which was available to police officers under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

However, as far as the police are concerned, the problem remains of what they are to do with referrals of young children whose activities are noncriminal yet not socially acceptable. It must be understood that the way in which the Young Offenders Act has been prepared and drafted—and quite rightly so, in my view—leaves a whole area of behaviour which will become a provincial

responsibility because it relates to the noncriminal activity of children.

The minister has before us a new bill with respect to child care and child welfare in the province, which is the result of a long period of work. I have never heard an expression by the government that in some way deals with this problem the police will have in dealing with the noncriminal activity of children which is nevertheless socially unacceptable.

The whole question of confessions in relation to the police is significantly changed; the whole question of fingerprinting and photographing is significantly changed; the whole question of records is significantly changed. I am not going to read into the record the provisions of the Young Offenders Act, but I have never understood or heard what process will be set in place by this province so that fingerprints and photographs of young offenders who have been charged but not convicted, or acquitted or where the proceedings have not proceeded against them, will be destroyed.

The statute mandates that provision, but I know of nothing that indicates what the process will be to ensure the destruction of those records in cases where charges do not proceed through to conviction or, if they proceed, end up with an acquittal. I do not know of anybody who has put his mind at all to making certain those records are destroyed.

I raised with the Ministry of the Solicitor General a while ago the matter about the contact file the police have. There is an information bank with the Solicitor General which would indicate it has a contact file with upwards of 50,000 names in it. If young persons are acquitted, if they are discharged or the case never comes to trial, I do not know what care will be taken to make certain their names will be removed from that information bank.

I want to go on to the pre-trial provisions of the Young Offenders Act and how they impinge on us in Ontario. Certainly, the right to counsel is pre-eminent. The implications of that requirement with respect to legal aid and duty counsel in the province and with respect to all the processes of pre-trial proceedings for a young offender are matters that can be dealt with only within the province. Either the legal aid plan or a legal aid program has to be dealt with.

It is true there was some speculative research work done in Ottawa on the question of that impact in a study entitled *Legal Aid Services for Juvenile Delinquents*, Canadian Statistics, July 1981, which was prepared for the national legal

aid centre in Ottawa. There were many intangibles in that study, but at least it pointed out the problems: the right of young offenders to counsel; the role of duty counsel; what the estimated impact in the way of costs on the legal aid program in Ontario would be; and how those services would be delivered in a way that would satisfy the rights of young persons under the Young Offenders Act. That is a provincial responsibility. They may get assistance under the financial arrangements with the federal government, but the responsibility to provide it lies with the provincial government.

I have asked the Attorney General for a copy of the agreement entered into as of April 1 with respect to the financing of legal aid by participation of the federal government with Ontario for the current fiscal year. I have not yet received it. I look forward to some analysis of it to see whether these concerns about the capacity and readiness of the province to provide the facilities that will permit the implementation of the federal Young Offenders Act in Ontario with respect to duty counsel and counsel in pre-trial matters are justified.

One of the fundamental pre-trial matters is the alternative measures provision, which is a pre-trial matter because the alternative measures provision is not a post-conviction sentence option. It is a pre-trial alternative. The pre-trial alternative gives to the person certain alternatives to which that person must consent.

Again, the question is involved of whether the young alleged offender will have the benefit of counsel when he is selecting and choosing amongst whatever alternative provisions are put before him. Those provisions that the statutes specifically require are matters which the province must provide. They are contained in section 4 of the Young Offenders Act:

"Alternative methods may be used to deal with the young person alleged to have committed an offence instead of judicial proceedings under this act only if: (a) the measures are part of a program of alternative methods authorized by the Attorney General or his delegate, or authorized by a person or a person within the class of persons designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of the province."

Again, a significant part of Bill 28 relates to the provision of those alternative measures. The provision of alternative measures relates very clearly to what the alternative measures are and to what the facilities of those alternative measures are; whether they are real alternatives; and whether what is intended to be accomplished by

the provision of alternative measures is adequately funded and sufficiently diverse in opportunity to meet the full complexity of the fundamental philosophy contained in the proposed Young Offenders Act.

9:20 p.m.

One need only read the perplexity expressed by the court under the Juvenile Delinquents Act in a couple of cases to indicate the extreme difficulty the court had in dealing with this whole question. There is the case of *Queen v. Richard B.*, April 14, 1982, which has extremely lengthy reasons for judgement, going on for some 45 pages, by His Honour L. A. Beaulieu, senior judge in the provincial court, family division, of the judicial district of York.

The issue is not the important issue. He was speaking about the alternatives available to him, whether he should transfer a particular person to adult court or deal with him in juvenile court. He was trying to lay out in his reasons for judgement the options from the point of view of the person before him who had not yet been tried and convicted. In a pre-trial sentence, a decision was going to be made on where he would be tried, which would ultimately result in what sentence would be imposed upon him, that is, whether he would be transferred to an adult court, in which case the whole panoply of the Criminal Code would apply, or whether he would remain in the juvenile system.

It was a serious case. The occasion for consideration was a serious one. Judge Beaulieu wanted to state very clearly that what he decided was, in good measure, determined by the availability to him of options from the province. He stated in the course of his reasons for judgement that he had little, if any, choice, and he made what could be called a devil's choice as to which of the possible places the person should go.

That brings me to the question of what will be made available by way of alternative measures in this province, in respect to the whole question, so the full range envisaged by the Young Offenders Act will be available. Again, that is a provincial matter, as were the matters related to legal aid, to the question of the destruction of police records, to the question of police training, to the question of the problems the police will be faced with on the issue of referral of the noncriminal activity of young offenders, as well as the group of people who are entirely away from the criminal law system now, those between the ages of seven and 12 who cannot be convicted of a criminal offence.

There are serious problems in relation to those questions and there is nothing I know of that indicates that police training, police attention, police guidelines or any other regulations are available so the police can recognize the significant change in their role that will occur.

I could deal at some length with questions of jurisdictional matters or trial matters, but I do not intend to deal with any of them until I come to the matter of trials. There is no doubt there are many questions the courts will face at the actual trials of young offenders, in situations where alternatives have not been used and the trial is proceeding.

The one I want to deal with, which seems to me to be up front and centre with respect to young offenders at trial, is the question of the privacy of predisposition reports. Should they be convicted and a predisposition report be available? There must be clear rules with respect to the privacy of those matters, and I believe they can be devised. My problem is simply that nobody, on behalf of the government, appears to have devoted any attention to the privacy question.

The fundamental question I, as a lawyer, see in these matters is related to the test for insanity and the test as to what will happen to a person who is declared insane in a youth court and is therefore unfit to stand trial. What will be the disposition of that person and what care and treatment will that person obtain? That will be a serious matter within the area of the kinds of assessments courts must make at the time of trial.

When one steps back from the question of insanity simply to the question of mental retardation and to the question of incapacity to make certain discriminations that young people may have, we have a whole range of young person treatment, care and attention, I have had no specific indication that the government has directed its attention to them. Those are matters that are of concern to me.

When we come to the question of sentencing, we find there are for practical purposes a whole range of concerns related to the role of the probation officer or, as he is known under the Young Offenders Act in an attempt to redefine his role, the youth officer—I think he is called that under the statute. The minister looks a little quizzical so I will look it up in the statute to find it. He may be in our terms a—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Youth worker.

Mr. Renwick: Yes, it is a youth worker. I am not suggesting for a moment that it makes a great deal of change, but the attempt is to redefine the role of the youth worker who we call a probation officer. If one examines the statute, the whole

question comes up front and centre about case load, and the responsibilities of youth workers and the role they will play when it comes to the actual sentences which will take place.

The range of conditions of probation are spelled out in such a way that they cannot help but impact in a definite way upon the role of the youth worker, or the probation officer as we know him in this province.

The whole question of parole will come up with respect to young offenders. Is there to be special restructuring of the Ontario Board of Parole? For practical purposes, the great bulk of the sentences of those who are convicted under the Young Offenders Act are likely to be served within the province. If they are not served within the province, we have matters dealing with the National Parole Board.

In this complex world, I could perhaps go on and deal with a number of other matters, but I have tried the patience of the minister and I have taken up too much of the time of the House. I have tarried too long for my own good in this debate, but I want to try to say to the minister that in Ottawa they can pass whatever statute they want. I welcome the Young Offenders Act. I welcome a national scheme for young offenders. I am not certain what the ultimate result will be for that other part of a young offender's scheme that will fall as the responsibilities of the individual provinces.

9:30 p.m.

I believe Ontario has a major role to play in providing leadership. Because it is a wealthy province, and because of the nature of the province and the pride we have here, I hope we will embrace the philosophy in such a way in all the areas—and I will miss out some—the police, the role of the police, the question of legal aid, duty counsel and adequate and proper representation, the question of probation or youth workers, all the questions related to parole and alternative measures. All of those are matters in which this province can provide the example to the rest of Canada. No matter how one cuts it, one cannot have a national scheme which relies on provincial standards for so much of the implementation work unless this province provides the leadership and the guidance.

I would assume it is consistent with Tory party philosophy to be the best in Canada, the North American continent, the western hemisphere and the world in this field. It is fundamental to their philosophy to be proud of those things. For a few extra dollars, we in this province can, by our criticism of the government, provide the oppor-

tunity for the Tory party to say, "We are the best everywhere" in the field of young offenders and the care, treatment, detention, and response of our government to young people in conflict with the law.

It is one of the few fields in which we would applaud the government if it produced. In most cases when it makes that boast, it has not produced. Here is an opportunity for it to produce. There is no single aspect of young people's development in this province in relation to the social obligations within the society that cannot be accomplished on the least intrusive basis if the gut decision and commitment of the government is behind it. It takes courage, clearheadedness, a sense of commitment, leadership, sensitivity and some thrashing out of the silly interjurisdictional disputes in the government.

The government has the skilled people who can do it if it will respond and recognize that. It has put a bill before us with a few short sections, suggesting it is to implement the Young Offenders Act, but there is very little in it other than technical, legal jargon. It cannot submerge in that way the fundamental policy questions, the judgemental matters which must be decided by the government and the commitment to be made.

Basically, the Tory party wants to implement the Young Offenders Act with the least possible ripple on the calm waters of the province so everybody will go on as they have before. That is the way in which it maintains its position in the province because everybody believes that nobody has rocked the boat.

The Ontario Court of Appeal and the Divisional Court of Ontario rocked the boat a little about the Theatres Act and my friend has poured oil on it today and introduced the bill, just to make some technical rearrangements that will meet these requirements. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations introduced Bill 28 to make some technical adjustments to something they have done in Ottawa.

I have not heard a minister of the crown, in a responsible ministry or elsewhere in the government, indicate by word or deed any understanding of the implications for young people and the potential for good with respect to the obligations of the province in implementing the Young Offenders Act.

I will finish where I started, on a question of humility and ignorance. I do not understand all of this. What I do know is if the subtitle of the book to which I referred at the beginning is correct, the

great stumble forward, I am glad to be part of that great stumble forward.

I do not want anybody to think for one moment that there are magic solutions to the problem of young people in conflict with the law; it will remain a complex, ongoing problem of immense proportions. But I do not want the government of Ontario to do nothing, which is what its attitude is as far as I am concerned, sitting in the opposition and having watched the response of the government in these various areas.

I know little about chemistry, and if there is a litmus test on this question, it will be the minister's decision on two points. One is whether the government can get away from the dual ministry responsibility, which it seems to want to have, and come to a conclusion that a single ministry must of necessity deal with these fundamental and basic problems.

The second matter is a very clear, physical, visible one, that the government will stop the nonsense of proceeding with the Bluewater conversion for the purpose of isolating 174 young offenders at any one time from any possibility of having the benefit of the kind of philosophy that is embodied in the Young Offenders Act.

I have said all I want to say. I will reserve anything else until the bill is in committee.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, it is always interesting to hear the comments of the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). I must say he was very informative tonight. I do not intend to outdo him in time or substance, but I do have a few comments about the bill as well as a few questions that I would like to ask the minister, who is carrying this bill on behalf of the government.

I am a little critical as to the amount of time it took to arrive at Bill 28. That is not necessarily a criticism of the minister but rather of the government. I am not sure even today who the lead minister is as far as the provisions of the Young Offenders Act are concerned. When did that person become the lead minister, if indeed it is this minister? When was the minister made aware that he had to bring Bill 28 forward to provide for the Young Offenders Act? When did the minister know he would be providing secure facilities as opposed to the Minister of Correctional Services? When did the minister find out he was going to be providing facilities for offenders pursuant to the Young Offenders Act?

Finally, I think it would be nice if all members of the Legislature could find out from the

minister, on behalf of the government, what steps led us to where we are today.

If we look back on this, we have known since 1971 that we were going to have some sort of new legislation coming forward. As the member for Riverdale said, the first draft came in 1971; it was subsequently withdrawn because it was seen as being offensive and inappropriate. A new act was brought forward in 1975—I believe the name of that one was the Young Persons In Conflict with the Law Act or something like that—at the federal level. Then in early 1982 the present legislation was passed at the federal level.

As I understand it, the parts of the act we are dealing with tonight were to have been proclaimed on April 1, 1983. I believe that date was delayed, at the request of provincial ministers, to October 1983. Upon further requests for delay, we then had a delay until April 1984. I also believe some provinces—I am not sure whether ours was one—wanted a further delay beyond April 1, 1984. There were two delays before that; so that would have been the third delay as far as this act is concerned.

9:40 p.m.

It is interesting to note that this bill was introduced in the Legislature three days after the proclamation of the federal statute. I wonder if the minister could indicate to us why it took so long to bring forward this piece of legislation. I think we have to know the answer to this for some of the following reasons.

I would like to refresh members' memories about the debate in this Legislature on February 8, 1983. I remember on that day the member for Riverdale was in his seat and so was the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston). It is not that I happen to recall it personally; I referred to both of them in the remarks I made, and that is why I have come to this conclusion.

On that day we were discussing the concurrences of the then Provincial Secretary for Justice, the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling), now the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. At that time we were asking the minister if he was the lead minister in the provision of services pursuant to the Young Offenders Act. Perhaps the member for Scarborough West will recall the following sentence being spoken in this Legislature at that time. I am quoting from what I said that day:

"In trying to find out which ministry is the lead ministry, I was under the impression all along that it was this minister's. This booklet here," and I was referring to a booklet published by Central Toronto Youth Services, I believe,

which was called Youth Opportunity Action, "says the Ministry of Community and Social Services is the lead ministry."

I remember specifically on that day the then Provincial Secretary for Justice shook his head and indicated no, his was the lead ministry. This is not recorded in Hansard, but I am sure other people who were here on that day saw that he indicated it like this, "It is me." It is interesting to note that it seemed to be the impression of the then Provincial Secretary for Justice that he was the lead minister in so far as this was concerned.

We did not hear much more about the Young Offenders Act after that in this Legislature. It is only now, some time after the federal legislation has been proclaimed, that we find out the bill is being introduced by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea).

I ask again the question I asked at the beginning. Is this because he is the lead minister in providing all services, or is it just because he is the minister who is going to be providing these particular types of facilities? He may have indicated that already in his previous comments; if not, perhaps he can clarify it for my own information.

If we look at some of the newspaper clippings over the last few years when we discussed the Young Offenders Act, it is interesting to note what has been written. I have here an article from the Ottawa Citizen of May 26, 1982, in which the reporter was interviewing a Mr. McConney, who was representing the Ministry of Community and Social Services; I believe his title is that of Ontario co-ordinator for the implementation of the Young Offenders Act. The article states, "Mr. McConney says Ontario will probably decide which route to take in the next two or three months and begin passing the new legislation in the fall."

I believe Bill 28 is the first bill we have heard of that had anything to do with the Young Offenders Act, and it is dated April 5, 1984. That is much more than the two or three months Mr. McConney was under the impression it would take for us to start passing some of the legislation necessary in order to implement the Young Offenders Act.

Several other comments were made in the press. I have an editorial here from the Toronto Star in May 1982 in which the editor of the Star was of the opinion that the Young Offenders Act was "solid juvenile law reform." That is the title here. In this person's opinion, we should not be unduly delaying implementation of this act and should proceed with what we intended to do.

Again, I read an editorial in the same newspaper, November 3, 1982, entitled "Why Delay New Youth Law?" I am wondering whether the editor, when faced with the proposition that this law was going to be delayed in November 1982, would have thought it would be delayed until April 2, 1984. I remind the members the only reason the law went ahead in April 1984 was that the federal minister said: "That is it. We have waited long enough. If we are ever going to implement this law, we have to do it immediately."

An editorial in the Globe and Mail in November 1982 entitled "Justice Delayed" talks about the fact that provincial premiers were postponing the implementation of the Young Offenders Act. For me as a member, it is very difficult to comprehend why even the first steps were delayed for so long. I understand this is the first piece of legislation we have had to implement the Young Offenders Act.

I want to refer members to the Sudbury Star, April 22, 1983. This is what the writer had to say in this particular article: "'It will be impossible for the Ontario government to honour its commitment to the proposed federal legislation on young offenders unless the federal government is willing to recognize the tremendous financial implications involved,' said MPP Norm Sterling, the Provincial Secretary for Justice, at the annual meeting of the John Howard Society."

As we read this article, the minister goes on to explain how he believes it is going to cost about \$150 million a year to implement the second phase. But today we are not even talking about the second phase; we are talking about the first phase. The first phase is the only one that comes up for implementation as of April 2, 1984. The other one, as I understand it, will be implemented a year from now.

If the bulk of the financial implication will be caused by the second phase in a year from now, if it is the second one that is going to bring about problems between the two governments, why has there been such disagreement between the provincial and federal governments for the implementation of the first phase?

I am still at a loss to understand why we did not ask for proclamation of the first phase immediately and perhaps delay the second phase, if it will create a problem for the minister or the government. We seem to have gone at it the opposite way. We seem to have delayed the first phase as long as we could—for almost a year and a half. It was delayed for only a year and a half

because the federal government insisted it would not go for any further delays on this issue.

9:50 p.m.

Those are the very few questions I have on this. Again, referring members to the comments made by the former Provincial Secretary for Justice in this Legislature on February 8, 1983, he certainly was telling us things then that sounded different from what we have been hearing very recently. On page 7392 of Hansard, he told us that as far as he was concerned there was no objection to the Young Offenders Act.

He said: "We are glad to see this matter come to a final determination. We have been negotiating for some 10 years with the federal government to have this act come about. It took into account many of the suggestions put forward by all the ministries, including those in the Justice policy field and...the Ministry of Community and Social Services."

He went on to describe the input the province has had into the Young Offenders Act. If the minister has had such input into it, perhaps he could indicate to the House why the government decided to delay not only the implementation of the bill, but to delay even beyond the date of the proclamation in order to introduce his first bill, when officials of his ministry some two years ago told us he was going to start proceeding with legislation three months from that point.

A two-year delay has been caused. Some people have speculated there was a disagreement amongst the ministers as to who would be responsible for the act. If that is not the case, I hope the minister can clarify this for the members of the Legislature. Perhaps he can indicate to us why the delay even took place.

For instance, perhaps he can indicate why in 1982 we asked for a delay until 1983 and why we asked for a further delay until April 1984? Why was it felt we needed a period beyond that? Once that date of April 1984 came about, why were we not ready? Why did we have to come into this Legislature and pass legislation in an almost retroactive fashion to take care of something we have known for a long time was going to come about at the federal level?

Those explanations would be tremendously helpful to all members to help them understand the series of events that led to this bill being introduced on April 5, 1984, as opposed to some period prior to that time, so that we could have had a full and thorough discussion of the issue at some period in the past. We could have had much more debate and we could have had input from the public. This bill was introduced afterwards as

a technical amendment. The government hoped for speedy passage and then it could proceed with everything.

In closing, I would like to find out the series of events that have created this. I hope the minister in his concluding remarks can offer some explanations to all of us.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I want briefly to refer to the bill and say I have some rather outlandish views associated with the treatment of young offenders. I know one of the major controversies in the House has been which ministry has the carriage of responsibility for the implementation. That has been cleared up to some extent, but my own feeling is we still have not lighted on the right ministry.

In our procedures, people who are sentenced to two years less a day come under provincial jurisdiction. I have often felt the education complement associated with the incarceration of these offenders has been less than adequate, particularly for young offenders. I think education is really the only thing we should be thinking of. Whether some area of the Ministry of Community and Social Services is the best ministry to assist and provide that is questionable in my view. I personally think the Ministry of Education ought to have the primary role in establishing what happens to these young people after they are sentenced.

When one goes back some years, it is interesting to note we did not have a Ministry of Correctional Services. The Ministry of Community and Social Services has had different names and different responsibilities over the years. The whole concept of leaving the two-years-less-a-day people with the provinces has, in my view, been mostly on the basis that those people ought to have a recidivism rate that is much lower.

Stop glowering at me that way. Maybe the minister does not agree or maybe the lights are too bright. I feel intimidated every time he is in the House.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I doubt that.

Mr. Nixon: I do not like the concept that these young offenders are primarily social problems. Certainly, the community deserves some protection against the ones who are incarcerated, but in general I feel the application of education would have the best possible effect for good as far as young offenders are concerned. I personally do not think the Correctional Services people have this as their principal aim and I do not believe the Ministry of Community and Social Services people have this as their principal aim.

Education has got to be properly established with recognizable goals and effectiveness. I have often thought that in this jurisdiction the Ministry of Education ought to have the primary and leading role in dealing with offenders, particularly young offenders. I want to put that to the members because I think one of our difficulties in the past was that the whole matter has been treated as a social or custodial problem rather than as one in which the primary ingredient for good ought to be education.

I too have been very concerned at the delay in the presentation of implementing legislation in this province, and at the horse trading that has gone on between the province and the federal government.

Mr. McClellan: That is not what John Gault called it?

Mr. Nixon: What did he call it?

Mr. McClellan: I cannot remember.

Mr. Nixon: If only I had his article I could make a far better speech, because it has been the basis for most of the speeches being made.

Anyway, I really do believe the horse trading between the federal and provincial agencies, if that is what one might call it, has been abominable. It is an indication of the lack of commitment to the problem and probably more than enough commitment to the politics of a matter that should have transcended that consideration.

I think people on all sides accept the legislation with a good deal of enthusiasm. The fact that the federal government is not paying enough money for its implementation in the minds of certain Conservative ministers in Ontario is no reason that we should not have been making practicable and, let us say, healthy preparations for the implementation of the statute. It is certainly overdue now.

Even this debate is overdue in that the legislation should have been enacted with suitable amendments months ago, and I regret very much that this is not the case. I am very glad the bill will be going out to committee where we can hear views from people more professionally adept at seeing the problems in the bill as it currently stands, and I hope it can be improved.

We are voting against the bill—the minister is aware of this—not because we believe its implementation should not come about but really as the only protest we have to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, and to anybody else who might be interested, that we feel this minister and his colleagues have shown substantial shortcomings

in the acceptance of their provincial responsibilities in the light of this federal initiative.

I regret very much that there have been these delays and I hope the minister in his summation will be able to give us a statement that is going to indicate that some of the problems at least have been settled and set aside and that we can proceed with the implementation of the program with a good deal more confidence than we can at the present time.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: In honour of this momentous occasion I would like to move, and I know I am going to be seconded by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke), that the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen) now be heard.

10 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): That is not a point of order. Does any other honourable member wish to participate in this debate?

Mr. Cooke: Why does the minister not defer to the member for Frontenac-Addington?

The Acting Speaker: Because of the outburst, does any other honourable member wish to participate in this debate? I take pleasure in calling upon the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I want to deal in this order with certain matters.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If any members wish to go home, I do not think I will be winding up tonight.

Among many of the things I have found very significant are the remarks of the member for Riverdale. I have not discussed varying views of corrections with him in seven years. I think I may take a little bit of time.

In dealing with some of the matters raised tonight by the member for Riverdale and latterly by the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) and the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), I want to settle the education matter first.

Education is the major component in my area of jurisdiction, which is until the age of 16. The four training schools that remain and a number of other community endeavours are all linked to education in one way or another. In fact, education, sometimes under supervisory conditions, forms the very basis of the programs. Because of the very high education content, and I use that in quotes, recidivism in Ontario and the number of occurrences involving those under age 16 are dropping very substantially.

I also draw to the attention of honourable members that when I was the Minister of Correctional Services, there was a distinctive thrust that for those young offenders—if we want to call them that, the 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds who were adults at the time and still are in terms of the courts—the best possible solution was not to incarcerate them if at all possible, but to arrange for a series of alternatives, from community service orders to communal living under supervision and so forth.

Quite frankly, Ontario has been the leader in this, to the point where the particular institutions that once housed 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds are closed. We did not need them any more because the 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds who needed only minimal security could be handled under supervision in the community. Actually, the thrusts the member is asking us to make are part and parcel of corrections in Ontario, whether for adults or juveniles.

In reply to the member for Riverdale, the ministry does not view the Young Offenders Act as a major shift in direction. On the contrary, close examination of the federal act shows that it codifies programs that have been pioneered in Ontario, particularly the community service and personal service orders programs. As the member knows, there were distinctive and different community programs set up for juveniles and for adults.

The Young Offenders Act also mandates the use of alternatives to institutional care through the provision of dispositions by the courts to open custody. Bear in mind that we have been one of the pioneers of the concept of open custody. That can be, as I mentioned before, a group home or similar setting. Under the Young Offenders Act, the residential services which were previously only used for wards on an aftercare basis are now going to be available for open custody, provided that is the sanction and direction of the court.

I think it is very significant that we, as pioneers of many of these concepts, have the full array of programs in place for those under 16 years of age. We will be closely monitoring demands placed on these services because of the Young Offenders Act, since the major effect may be to change the necessary distribution and the quantity of services.

Second, the changes focus largely on our interactions with the court under the Young Offenders Act. This has led to the development of some new policies in the procedures which have been communicated to agencies and other

organizations and field staff by means of training sessions held from January to March of this year.

Mr. Speaker, if you will indulge me for a moment, here is the manual which has been out across the province to those specific groups I have just spoken about. When we discussed this on the advent of second reading, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) said he had literally hundreds of questions. He said he was going to ask for the answers in committee. He can go right ahead and ask, because here are the answers to almost any of the questions he can envisage.

Mr. McClellan: The minister might have had the courtesy to share it with us.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will share it with the honourable member in committee. He raised it, now he gets it.

Mr. Cooke: The minister has real class.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I must have; I am not in the member's party.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Keep going; the heavy repartee is overwhelming.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It must be to a person who will not even use his party name.

As to the concerns raised by the member for Riverdale about the Bluewater Centre, let us look at the question of the incarcerated person after trial. A 16-year-old or 17-year-old is now either in Burtch Correctional Centre—we are talking about those in western Ontario—in Guelph Correctional Centre, or may be doing a short sentence in a detention centre. The Bluewater Centre in Goderich is an isolation or maximum security or segregation type of institution.

Because of the change in the law that occurs next year, we can no longer mix those under 18 with those over 18. There are certain offences under the Criminal Code or under the Young Offenders Act that do require incarceration. The Bluewater Centre at Goderich does not add additional incarceration units in the province; it merely reflects the change that we can no longer mix the two types of inmates because of age. Therefore, it is not contrary to the philosophy of the Young Offenders Act. It is necessitated by the proclamation next April of the standardization across the country of 18 as the demarcation age between juveniles and adult offenders.

10:10 p.m.

One other matter raised was the question of there being no mention of parole. Under the Young Offenders Act there is no parole; there is early release. There is no parole as there is under the Penitentiary Act or under the various parole acts in the 10 provinces.

The purpose of Bill 28 is to implement the Young Offenders Act as it was proclaimed on April 1, 1984. In no way, shape or form does it anticipate the scheduled proclamation of phase 2 on April 1, 1985. The reason the bill was introduced on April 5 was that it only became apparent on February 28, 1984, at the meeting of the federal-provincial ministers responsible for justice, that the final proclamation date would be April 1.

I showed members the manual. We began training sessions in January. We were already training front-line workers. We were training our own people. Our probation and after-care officers were being trained even prior to that. It is impossible to write legislation, however, before knowing what is going to be proclaimed.

It is quite true that there were requests by the provinces to postpone the proclamation one further time until October. In view of the fact that on two previous occasions the very same federal Solicitor General had agreed to postponement because of problems, not necessarily in Ontario and not necessarily only at the request of Ontario, there were those who felt he would agree to one more postponement. He did not. The information was only made available officially on February 28, and subsequent written confirmation was received early in April.

Several issues were raised not only earlier in the debate but also throughout the debate. The member for Riverdale is quite correct. We are very proud of both our juvenile and our adult correctional systems in Ontario. We must be, because we are the only jurisdiction in Canada that has a Ministry of Correctional Services. The federal government refuses to have one. The other nine provinces, for varying reasons, do not have one.

Mr. Nixon: We do not need one either.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Really?

Mr. Nixon: That is my opinion.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, in view of the sensitivity of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk to the way I look at him, would you ask him to restrain himself and not leap over his desk in the midst of all these things?

Mr. Nixon: I just want to set up a defensive screen against the minister.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I only ask that while I speak he be restrained from vaulting over his desk.

Mr. Nixon: It is the only way I can respond to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am thinking more of the clerks than of anyone else.

We are proud of both our juvenile and adult correctional systems in Ontario, and we look upon the Young Offenders Act as providing a clear mandate for continuing the programs of my ministry and of the Ministry of Correctional Services. These programs were developed not because they were required by federal act, but because they teach young people a sense of responsibility and offer alternatives that may better meet the needs of young people.

Because we view this act as a reinforcement of the direction we have taken, we co-operated with the federal government in the early stages of the bill's development and are continuing to co-operate as we negotiate a cost-sharing agreement. We were concerned about amendments to the federal bill introduced in February 1982 without consultation with this province, as was the former government of Saskatchewan. The then Minister of Social Services who had the responsibility, and I, were the only two who were able to get before the committee, and for the same reason.

The stipulation of a uniform maximum age under which young people can be dealt with under the Young Offenders Act is particularly problematic, not only for Ontario but for a majority of provinces. In Ontario, we will have to make sure the change does not affect the high quality of correctional services for juveniles and adults. The Young Offenders Act will have a significant impact on both systems. I am not thinking so much of the maximum age provision, but of other factors such as the sentencing patterns and the results of the question of the number of waivers of young people to adult court for trial, especially in cases of violent crimes.

The member for Riverdale was concerned about this waiver procedure. If I understood his concerns correctly, he was wary of a wholesale use of the waiver into adult court for those over 14. First, that is beyond the control of the minister or anyone in my ministry because the procedure of an application for waiver into the adult system is through the office of the crown attorney. Second, in the first seven weeks of operating under the Young Offenders Act, as I understand it, there have been no more requests for waiver to adult court than there were under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

The customary reason for a waiver into adult court is very violent crime. The sentence, previously under the Juvenile Delinquents Act and now under the Young Offenders Act, is so

much less than that of the adult penalty that the protection of the community is involved.

As my colleague to my left, the Provincial Secretary for Justice, announced on April 2, we need to have strengths and experiences of both systems brought to bear on the problems which the federal act imposes, and we need to be cautious if we are to maintain quality service. It is believed we need an initial period during which we can examine the effects of the new legislation before final decisions are made permanent.

In recognition of this need for co-operation, my ministry and the Ministry of Correctional Services have been working together for some time. Because of this advance planning, my ministry was prepared to implement the Young Offenders Act when it was proclaimed April 2 of this year. As the members are aware, the first phase applies only to 12- to 15-year-olds who will continue to come under the jurisdiction of our ministry.

During the debate several weeks ago, I was quite interested to hear both the New Democratic and Liberal parties indicate to this House they would like to see my ministry responsible for the 12- to 17-year-olds, inclusive. There has now been a minority opinion from the House leader of the Liberal Party. He wants the Ministry of Education made responsible.

Mr. Eakins: Why did you close the training schools?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We closed most of the training schools and even the four left now are half empty. Most of the children are served much better in the community. It is that simple. I am sure members can appreciate it would not be prudent to take—

Mr. Cassidy: How you scoffed when we started to propose that four or five years ago.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The Ministry of Correctional Services started to close training schools way back in the 1970s, not when the member proposed it five years ago.

Mr. Cassidy: It was 10 years ago.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Why does he not make it 15?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: All right, 15.

Mr. Speaker: Now back to the bill, please.

Hon. Mr. Drea: As I mentioned earlier, we need the shared responsibility over the short term to examine the impact of the Young Offenders Act in Ontario. After a period of experience, we will be able to review the application of the act and make decisions on the jurisdiction.

As I mentioned before, young offenders must be held separately from adults in both secure and

open custody in detention facilities, no matter which ministry looks after children and youth. Therefore, it would not be difficult for one ministry to take responsibility for a single-service delivery system, and any further decisions regarding jurisdiction could be made with relative ease.

10:20 p.m.

A lot has been said about Ontario's stance in our negotiations with the federal government for cost-sharing. As long ago as the summer of 1981, we were asked, along with all the provinces, to provide details of current costs and projected costs for the new act. These were provided. At that time, the bill provided for a provincial option on the maximum age, so the costs were only for 12- to 15-year-olds. Then, out of the blue, the federal government took the position that the Charter of Rights required a uniform maximum age, and it imposed it at age 17 and under.

In the spring of 1982, we were asked to provide detailed information and costs for 16- and 17-year-olds. We also had to face the cost changes necessitated by amendments to the act. That was not a simple exercise. It was a new act and we had to make informed judgements about how to deal with young persons. We expected the submission of costs to be followed by a detailed federal-provincial discussion of our assumptions and dollar figures.

Finally, in the fall of 1982, we heard we could soon expect to receive the federal cost-sharing offer. It was not until March 1984 that we finally received a federal offer of financial support, but there had been no discussion with us about our cost expectations or the federal government's expectations. However, we were finally talking about it. A major joint federal-provincial effort was undertaken in the summer of 1983 to analyse respective expectations about costs and produce joint papers about results.

All these efforts affected considerably the major changes that were made to the federal offer we eventually received this year. In the final analysis, no one knows what the costs will be until we have had experience. Basically, we wanted—and I think it is a very fair want—the federal government to share and recognize the risks of the unknown with us and the other provinces.

I would like to respond to the concerns that the facilities and programs necessary to implement the Young Offenders Act for 12- to 15-year-olds are not in place. As I have already stated, for the most part the Young Offenders Act formalizes an approach to juvenile corrections that we are

already practising in this province. This is an approach we plan to continue.

We have placed particular emphasis on providing alternatives to incarcerating young offenders. These community alternatives to training schools have included restitution, community service and the personal service order programs.

Group home and similar residential services previously developed for training school wards on aftercare will continue to be used under the federal act as places of open custody. The training school system will be used for the small proportion of young offenders who receive a disposition of secure custody. Similarly, the ministry's observation and detention homes will continue to be used for young people who are detained prior to and during trial.

To answer the sceptics who suggest we are placing too much emphasis on custodial care—and just the opposite was raised by one member tonight—we point out that the government has closed 10 of 17 training schools since the early 1970s. In fact, the Ministry of Community and Social Services has reduced training school beds. Where there were almost 1,500 beds, there are now about 400 and only about half of those are used at any one given time.

This government obviously needs no convincing on the advantages of community alternatives to custodial care. We are more than satisfied that we have a full array of programs and facilities in place for 12- to 15-year-olds and that we have a delivery system flexible enough to respond to the requirements of the Young Offenders Act no matter what its final impact. Furthermore, we have every intention as a government to ensure that the same range of services will be available to 16- and 17-year-olds when they come under the federal act.

Extensive training and orientation has been undertaken for all relevant personnel by my ministry to ensure their ability to implement both the letter and the spirit of the law. We should remember that our primary role as a ministry is the care, control, counselling and treatment of young people. That remains the same under the Young Offenders Act.

Where the change occurs, it is, as I mentioned before, an interaction with the youth court. This has led to the development of some new operating policies and procedures and, as I pointed out, they have been communicated right across the province to the field staff and agencies through a number of local training sessions held in the first quarter of this year.

There is one other matter I would like to deal with, and that is children under 12 years of age. A policy to address this issue was developed by an interministerial committee which included representatives from a children's aid society and the police. The committee considered responses to the consultation paper in its deliberations. We feel, therefore, that we are as ready as we can be to deal with the new issues posed by the federal legislation. What is more important is that we have a system that can respond quickly from both a policy and a program base to any changes in direction. This is true for all ministries involved.

The specific of those who are no longer under the auspices of the Young Offenders Act—that is, those from seven to 12 years of age, because the minimum age of criminal responsibility is now 12—is clarified under Bill 28. The police authority under the Child Welfare Act is particularly stated in the bill. A police officer who is unable to return home within a reasonable time a child under 12 takes the child to a place of safety as designated under the act. The child can be held there for 12 hours, and if the parents still cannot be reached, the child is deemed to be in need of protection, and further action can be taken under the Child Welfare Act.

The only provision required is to clarify police authority to apprehend and temporarily detain a child under 12 who has committed what otherwise would be an offence and to return the child to his or her parents or the person having charge of the child. The provision is intended to provide the police with reasonable flexibility in continuing the practice of returning children to their parents whenever circumstances warrant. The 12-hour limit ensures the children are not detained for extended periods of time in either places of safety or police stations. That was a particular concern of some members. We believe the 12-hour limit, and that is the maximum, ensures the children are not detained for extended periods of time.

I look forward to discussing Bill 28 at the committee stage. This bill is interim legislation, essentially of a housekeeping nature. It is legislation and procedures that obviously work. We have had seven weeks in the courts. Not being a lawyer, I do not know how many trials have taken place, but obviously trials have taken place. Contrary to the opening statement by a member of the opposition that there would be chaos in the courts, there has been no chaos in the courts.

In fact, I venture that at least the first phase, which is all we are dealing with, of the transition

from the Juvenile Delinquents Act to the Young Offenders Act—even with all the structural changes in the courts in the federal act, the new disposition authority and other matters—has proceeded very smoothly. I think I would be far too optimistic if I suggested that phase 2, which

contains the very significant changes, will not have a more substantial transition period, but that is some months down the road.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Drea, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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- Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
- Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
- Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
- Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
- Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
- Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
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- McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
- Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
- Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
- Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
- Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, May 29, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 29, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.
Prayers.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all the members of the assembly to join with me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery the members of the Consular Corps Association of Toronto, led by Mr. Oswald Murray, dean of the consular corps.

We are also fortunate in having in the members' east gallery the following members from the South Australian Parliament: Mr. John Oswald, the member for Morphet, and Mr. Graham Ingerson, the member for Bragg.

ANNUAL REPORT, LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the annual report of the director of the legislative library, research and information services, for 1983-84.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, this may be a point of view. We have been long awaiting an announcement from the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) in regard to funding in the field of co-operative education. I understood that today we would have an announcement from the minister on funding and co-operative education. Have you received any knowledge of this?

Mr. Speaker: I never receive any knowledge of this, and I think it would be more proper for the honourable member to ask the question during the oral question period.

ATTENDANCE OF STAFF AT ESTIMATES

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I should call to your attention and to the attention of this Legislature the fact that in the estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) for the third year in a row has chosen to bring with him into the committee room only his deputy minister and none of the senior officials of his ministry, as is the custom and practice of all the other ministers of this Legislature. In my

experience, he is the only minister who has chosen to take this course.

At a time when we have legislation on freedom of information before this House, when the government stands before us and tells us how open and accessible it is, why does it allow a minister to keep his senior civil servants under lock and key and away from the questions of the opposition? This course of action is not serving the democratic process and is a reversion to times past when citizens did not have access to government. Would you look into this, sir?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the honourable member knows well that is not a matter of privilege. Certainly I do not have the authority or the jurisdiction to instruct members of government to do anything. I would make the observation that if the minister feels confident in doing that, he must be extremely well informed.

Mr. Rae: It is unbelievable that you would make that kind of editorial comment.

Mr. Speaker: Resume your seat, please. Unbelievable as it may be, it was just an observation.

Mr. Laughren: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I suspect you would agree with me it is possible for privileges of members to be abused without standing orders of this Legislature being violated. I believe that is what is happening to members of the opposition and through them to the public at large. For three years now, during the estimates debates of the Ministry of Natural Resources we have been receiving the truth according to the minister alone.

I am sure you follow the politics of Ontario very closely, Mr. Speaker, and know there is a lot of dispute out there over the true nature of the second forests in the province and other matters dealt with in the Ministry of Natural Resources. I do not believe it is appropriate for a minister to decide the opposition will get the facts according to him only. Surely to goodness one of the reasons that estimates were sent to committees in the first place was so members of the opposition could have access to expertise from the bureaucracy of Ontario.

For that reason, we increasingly feel there is no sense in our attending the estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The minister

simply interprets the facts as he wishes to interpret them and stonewalls us on getting any further information from the experts in the Ministry of Natural Resources. I think it is time it was ruled on.

Mr. Speaker: It is really not a point of privilege and it is not a matter of order. My understanding, which may or may not be correct, is that the civil service staff of the ministry are there to assist the minister when called upon to do so.

Mr. Sargent: What are you going to do about it?

Mr. Speaker: It is beyond my jurisdiction to do very much about it. I am sure the minister involved has taken note of the many remarks that have been made and will perhaps govern himself accordingly.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Martel: On the same point, Mr. Speaker: In 1969 this House established a committee to look into the rules of the Legislature because at that time everything was done in the House. One of the reasons for moving estimates out of the House was to allow the opposition to question some of the civil servants.

Later on, we allowed a break in a 100-year tradition when the ministers wanted someone to assist them. We allowed the table to be brought into the Legislature so the deputy minister or a head of a department could be with the minister to provide him with answers.

We went out to committee. I have heard the government House leader say on many occasions and, if the Speaker will check the remarks, the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) said last week with respect to the Ministry of the Environment, that the appropriate opportunity would be available to ask the appropriate people with respect to various government cuts or where the government was spending its money. He said that was why we had estimates.

Last night I sat listening to the minister simply stonewall and say, "It is my opinion and I will not provide you with the documentation." He does that continuously in that committee.

Hon. Mr. Pope: I did not say that. That is wrong.

Mr. Martel: It runs off his mouth. He will not put the material, the studies before the members.

Hon. Mr. Pope: As usual, you do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. Martel: My colleague has been asking for some of them for a year or a year and a half. The minister keeps telling us it will happen when

he is ready. If the opposition is to follow its mandate to look into the spending of the government, we have to have the documentation and the right to question the civil servants who run this province.

Mr. Speaker, you have an obligation to indicate to the minister that the government cannot use its majority to say, "We will not allow anyone to answer except the Pope himself."

Hon. Mr. Pope: May I now answer this nonsense?

Mr. Speaker: No, because it is still not a point of order and it is still not a point of privilege. I must point out to all the members that, as I have said before, what goes on in committee is beyond my jurisdiction.

If I may make a suggestion, it seems to me this is a matter that would be better discussed by the three House leaders. They could come to some understanding or agreement as to how estimates are going to be handled, particularly those that are handled outside this chamber.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I understand you are saying it should be resolved among the three parties, but I want to tell you there is no sense in us participating any more in the estimates of that ministry as long as the minister continues to treat it as his personal toy. That is what he does. I see no sense in our continuing those estimates.

Mr. Speaker: I must again rule that is not a matter of order, nor is it a matter of privilege. I hear very clearly what you are saying. I hear your dissatisfaction. I respectfully suggest that the House leaders resolve it.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might add that somehow or other the members of this Legislature are entitled to information from the ministries. The minister has not answered the questions in Orders and Notices, for goodness sake, and he chooses to take this course of action. Surely the Speaker should be concerned.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Your point has been well made and I am sure the three House leaders will get together and resolve this matter.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, with respect, this is a matter which does affect the business of this House and it affects a very basic understanding of the members. Looking at the history of why estimates have been referred to committee, that history clearly establishes that the reason was to allow members to cross-examine officials of the government who were responsible for the implementation of particular programs.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Absolutely not.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: I know they do not want to hear it. They are going to have to hear it anyway. If the Minister of Natural Resources is saying we are not allowed to cross-examine the chief forester of this province, and that is exactly what he is saying, that runs directly counter to the basic principle that we are supposed to be able to get the evidence and information that should be accessible to the people of this province with respect to the most basic resource.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Rae: That is what has happened.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Cross-examine me; I am the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Again, the matter is—

Mr. Martel: Baloney, you are the Pope.

Mr. Rae: You are not the only person who knows anything. You do not own everybody who works in your department either.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The point has been well made. The suggestions and comments are becoming repetitive. I advise all honourable members that it is beyond my jurisdiction to deal with it. I would suggest very strongly once more that the House leaders take this matter under their consideration immediately.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Apart from the idiosyncrasies of the Minister of Natural Resources, what bothers me is your comment that it is beyond your jurisdiction, by ruling that it is not a matter of privilege or order or anything you can do anything about. As representing all the members of this assembly, you are putting your approval on an erosion which needs to be stopped right in its tracks before it spreads, as it will, to other members of the government on the question of the way the estimates are dealt with in the assembly.

The House leader of our party has drawn to your attention, briefly and in a very cursory way, a very lengthy process the assembly went through, and not on the question of majority or minority government, because it started long before that with the appointment by the then Premier of the Camp-Oliver-Fisher commission and the subsequent appointment of a committee of this assembly to review the recommendations of the Camp commission.

One of the fundamental basic decisions was that the estimates should be dealt with in an atmosphere that permitted the members to have access to the experts in the various areas of the

ministries at estimates time for the purpose of verifying whether or not the moneys the government had asked to be expended were being properly expended and accounted for.

I want to make it as clear as I can that in the etiquette and manners of the assembly it has been the conscious policy of members of the opposition to say to the minister, "I want to ask a question about this matter." Because manners and etiquette and the way we deal with each other are profound and fundamental to the working of this place, it has been customary for the minister to say, "I will have my deputy answer that," or, "I will have this particular official or this other person answer that question." The minister did not think he was lord of all he surveyed and the sum and total part of it.

That bothers me, and unless we bring it to your attention at its early appearance in the assembly, it will be a backward step to erode a process which is detached from the idiosyncrasies of that minister and from the particular persons who represent the ridings in this House, and was part of the process of this assembly adapting itself to the requirements of modern government in relation to the accountability and obligation of the members of the assembly to vote the estimates.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I find it passing strange that you should take such a narrow view of your office as to say it is not a point of privilege, a point of order or a matter related to the rules but only a matter to be worked out among the House leaders. It is not a matter to be worked out among the House leaders. The whole process that took place from whenever that Camp commission was appointed, which, if my memory is correct, was done under the premiership of John Robarts, was for the purpose of bringing this Legislative Assembly into modern times.

My colleagues and members of the Liberal Party are trying to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that it has nothing to do with the Minister of Natural Resources, it has to do with this assembly and with the way it conducts, in public, public business. That is what it is about and that is why I find it passing strange that you, interested and knowledgeable about the history of this House, should take that short-range view, as if this is just something that has happened and that if the government House leader cannot put a rein on a maverick minister of the crown who does not appreciate the history of this place and does not appreciate the problems involved in accounting

publicly about public business, our only recourse is if the government House leader will agree.

If that is your view, then I say that in a strange way it comes through to me that you have, with great respect, a lack of perception of the responsibility of the Speaker of the assembly.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to think I do not take a narrow view of my responsibilities or my interpretation of the rules and standing orders. But it is very clear to me, as I understand it and as I hear what everybody is saying, that you are asking the Speaker to be put in the role of making a judgement.

Quite clearly, the responsibility for the conduct, the attendance or even the scheduling of the work before the committee stems from a decision or an agreement or a consensus or something arrived at by the House leaders. All I am saying is that my jurisdiction does not extend, as you know full well, to the committee. I cannot deal with anything before a committee until it comes before this House in the form of a report.

Again, I would advise and implore the three House leaders to get together to resolve this matter in some way, shape or form. If I can be of any assistance in sitting in on a meeting with the three House leaders, I would be pleased to do so. But please do not try to put the Speaker in the position of making a judgement.

Mr. Martel: You are going to be on the spot now.

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, as one of the House leaders to whom you have kindly referred this matter, I am somewhat less than enthusiastic about the prospects of a solution that is going to be acceptable to all sides. You know the House leaders do not take votes. In this instance, the government House leader is not going to be able to attend a meeting for a week or two. If you are going to leave it to the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and me, we might be able to arrange something.

Frankly, I must agree with those who urge you to accept the specific responsibility in this regard. You may recall incidents in the past where committees have, by their motion, called for your order compelling the attendance of certain witnesses at committees. Surely it should not be necessary to present such a motion in order for the minister to bring forward the officials of his ministry to respond to questions by the members of the Legislature considering the estimates.

Rather than simply put it off on the House leaders, which I say will not really be a

successful solution to the problem, other than perhaps to get rid of it for the next few minutes, I would ask you if you would personally accept advice from the table and from other sources in order to come up with a judgement in this matter that might be more generally accepted.

You know and the minister knows these officials are very competent, well-remunerated employees of the crown. For him to continue to deny the members of the Legislature access to them in the discussion of the estimates is a very strange procedure indeed. I would suggest that without your assistance there is not going to be an acceptable solution.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the final comment.

Mr. Martel: You are going to be forced to make a decision.

Mr. Speaker: No. As the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) said, I find it passing strange that the House leaders do not want me to refer it to them, but they have no hesitation in referring it back to me. I shall take the member's advice and the advice of other members of the assembly and seek advice from my advisers and others and report at the earliest possible time, probably on Thursday, I would think, on how this matter may best be dealt with.

Again, off the top of my head, my impression and my understanding at the moment is that I think it is beyond my jurisdiction. Having said that, I shall seek further advice.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, the question we are asking is what is it he has to hide. What is he hiding from us? It has been three years.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member can ask the minister that during question period. The honourable member will resume his seat, please.

A new point of order. The member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: As you have heard from us, we feel what has transpired is an erosion of what we had worked towards. Part of improving the work of the House allowed civil servants to sit on the floor of the Legislature to assist the ministers. I wonder what position you are going to take when we say no the very next time it occurs, which is a further erosion of what we had worked towards in improving this business. I wonder what position you are going to find yourself in then if the opposition uses the tactic the minister is using and says, "No, they cannot have them there any longer. Get back under."

As you know, the only way they are allowed on the floor of the Legislature is with the consent of this Legislature. I am prepared to suggest that very shortly you are going to have to rule on that, if this bird is going to continue to act in the cavalier fashion he does, because we are not prepared to accept that nonsense.

Mr. Speaker: Having made the point on the old point of order, I would point out to the honourable member that he makes a valid point in that no strangers are allowed on the floor of the House except by consent of the House. Okay—I mean all right. We must stay formal here.

Mr. Martel: That will end it for all the other cabinet ministers.

Mr. Speaker: If that unanimous consent is withdrawn, then that is the decision of the House and not a decision of the Speaker.

Mr. Martel: It will be.

Mr. Speaker: No, it shall not.

Mr. Martel: You will find out. We will have some bells on it. It will be challenged.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Oral questions. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson).

Mr. Peterson: Do you need any more advice on this matter, Mr. Speaker?

ORAL QUESTIONS

ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Revenue. As members know, he is part of the government that prides itself as being lean and mean, as flat-lining the administration and being conscientious about its administrative expenses. How can he as the minister responsible justify the explosion in expenses for outside consulting services in his ministry over the past several years?

From 1979 to 1982, for example, creative consulting services went up by 989 per cent. From 1978 to 1982, management consulting services went up by 725.2 per cent, from \$60,000 to \$498,000. In the same period, communication services went up by 90 per cent, from \$167,000 to \$318,000, and legal services by 81 per cent, from \$728,000 to \$1.32 million. At the same time, the ministry's staff complement went up substantially from 3,873 to 4,041.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: How can the minister be part of a government that suggests it is implementing restraint when, over that period of time, we saw

this huge explosion in costs directly attributable to his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the official opposition knows full well that the estimates of the Ministry of Revenue are being dealt with at the present time. This is a matter that will be addressed. He raised it the other day on a general basis about all the different ministries. The question was asked by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) yesterday in my estimates and we will be addressing that at the proper time during my estimates.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister telling us he needs his experts here in the House to answer the question for him? The minister is answerable in this House as well as in committee and he should have been prepared. It is like pulling teeth getting information out of the government. When the information finally comes out, it is absolutely shocking the way the government is being run.

Mr. Bradley: Even the St. Catharines Standard says that.

Mr. Peterson: If the St. Catharines Standard says that, we know it is true.

In the year of restraint, 1982-83, is the minister aware of how the costs exploded in that one year? Management consultant contracts went up by 71 per cent, communication services by 25.2 per cent, legal services by 15 per cent and communications by 36 per cent. Expenditures for trips outside Canada went up by 131 per cent in the year of restraint. From a policy point of view, how does the minister justify that? How does he avoid the accusation that he and his colleagues are nothing but hypocrites when it comes to restraint?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw the word "hypocrite," please.

Mr. Peterson: Would you prefer "four-flushers"? I did not make the accusation. I asked how he avoids the accusation. I did not actually accuse him, but I am prepared to accuse him of that after he answers the question. At this point, I have asked him how he avoids that accusation. If you check the rules, you will find it quite parliamentary the way it was delicately presented.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I have no argument with that. I have an objection to the use of the word.

Mr. Peterson: In the interest of parliamentary niceties, I will withdraw that and still put the question to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I do thank you for your concern, but I really do not get too

excited about things that come from the leader of the official opposition from time to time. He tends to be rather loose with his lip with his accusations.

However, I do wish to comment that the—

Mr. Riddell: People who live in glass houses.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: And that goes for that member too—big mouth; he has a big lip.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: As mentioned when I addressed the question when it was first asked, the member is picking out individual items from a budget. It is a very well put together set of estimates, as he would have to admit. He knows full well there was reason for consultation in the past. He knows full well, as we discussed it in the fall, about the trips overseas for recruitment. He knows all that and he has had the answers before. Things are getting pretty shallow over there when they are having to go back over the same questions. I repeat, I will be addressing this in the estimates, which resume on Monday.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could give us a brief response to some of these rather alarming increases? For instance, in management consultant services in 1982-83, the increase was \$498,400; in legal services, more than \$1.3 million; in creative communication services, slightly more than \$99,000, and in communicative services, \$318,000. What is the reason behind such a dramatic increase in expenditure in those specific fields?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I mentioned this to the leader of the official opposition when he asked the question. Incidentally, the member for Oshawa asked the same questions yesterday in my estimates. He asked me to prepare answers for this, to do some research and not to rush. In his words, he said, "We want these to be very carefully put together." We are attempting to do that. We will have some detailed answers for him on Monday during the estimates.

Mr. Peterson: The minister is very well aware of a trick or device used by a number of his colleagues with regard to splitting up large contracts into smaller contracts under \$15,000. This is done in order to avoid the Manual of Administration with respect to untendered contracts. Would the minister be prepared to provide the information with respect to those under-\$15,000 contracts, particularly when so many of them are going to the same firms?

We can already see, with the little information provided, many contracts—five, six or seven—going to one firm for under that amount,

obviously a technique employed by the minister and his officials to avoid the Manual of Administration. Will he provide information in specific terms on what those contracts relate to and explain at this point the unexplainable in his estimates?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I do not know how I explain the unexplainable, but I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that in the opening statement in my estimates yesterday I addressed the answers to these many questions that were asked by the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid). They were answered at length and additional information was given along with those answers. If the Leader of the Opposition consulted with the member for Rainy River, he might have the very answers he is looking for.

Mr. Peterson: It is exactly for that reason I am asking these questions in the House. The minister is not answering them in committee; that is exactly the problem. He is not prepared to answer them.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Education with respect to special education. As she knows, some years ago many members of this House entered into discussions on Bill 82 with great promise in the hope of offering every student in this province the right to special education.

Is the minister prepared now to reaffirm her commitment to the right to special education for all students in this province? Is she prepared to fund it properly? Is she prepared to clean up the administrative process? We have found so many snags in the appeal process where it has taken unnecessary delays for students in need of special education to get through the process and to get action. Is she prepared to review that legislation with those three concerns in mind?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the legislation has been under constant review and its intent is reaffirmed daily within the Ministry of Education. The funding that has been made available will, I think by the year 1985, have an additional \$105 million added in support of special education in 1985 dollars if projections are reasonable. We promised, as the Leader of the Opposition is very much aware, \$75 million in 1980 dollars in addition to what was already being spent in support of special education.

There are, or have been, some growing pains in the second tier, and sometimes even in the first tier, as boards became operative in the areas of identification and placement review committees.

There have been some growing pains in facilitating the establishment of that mechanism.

Those have certainly been reviewed. The implementation team is working with the boards on a regular basis and the appeal mechanism at the regional and provincial levels is beginning to come along quite reasonably.

I would remind the member that the mandate of that bill sets the date of September 1, 1985, and it is my commitment that we will be ready. I am convinced every board in the province will be ready to provide what it can in support of special education within its own jurisdiction and with our help.

Mr. Peterson: The minister will be aware that one of the great problems is the funding, which has been causing concerns—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is not.

Mr. Peterson: Yes, it is. If the minister is not aware of it, everyone else is. Surely she is not that isolated from the realities of this situation.

The minister has been accused of not providing any real additional money, that the \$14.5 million allotted to that program this year was part of the overall five per cent increase, so it is not real new money. She is doing accounting sleight of hand.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not true.

Mr. Peterson: That is the allegation. The minister must be well aware of it.

Mr. Bradley: David Lennox says that.

Mr. Peterson: Dave Lennox says that.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do you know who David Lennox is?

Mr. Peterson: Of course I know who he is.

Mr. Bradley: President of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member please place his question?

Ms. Copps: He knows him personally. Relax.

Mr. Peterson: I know these people better than the minister does, and do you know what? They like us a lot better than they like the minister. They talk to us, too. She is the one who is alienating the whole situation.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: The minister has not, in real terms, put anything new into that situation this year, and it is one of the reasons for the problem. Why did the minister break the promise in that regard?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not break a promise. If the honourable member will review the history of funding of special education in this province, he will understand that in 1980-81 we referred the matter of the method of delivery of the additional dollars for special education to the Advisory Committee on Financing Elementary and Secondary Education. It made the recommendation that specific dollars should be delivered on behalf of every single student in the province for the support of special education, based on the total enrolment within a board's jurisdiction.

That has been carried out annually. It is a commitment that has been made and honoured. The suggestion that it has not been honoured, I fear might lead me to use unparliamentary language. I shall not descend to that level, but I will honestly tell the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition exactly what the provincial council of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation felt about his performance if he would like to come over and talk to me.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, the minister today received information from the Parents' Caucus for Fair Education. I presume the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I believe the minister received a submission from the Parents' Caucus for Fair Education. I presume she has been briefed on that at this point. The major assertion of that paper is that for the kids who are hardest to serve, the kids with the most difficult learning disabilities, it is now harder to get money for special programs than it was before we brought in Bill 82, because of the regulations that she and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) brought in subsequent to the proclaiming of Bill 82.

Will the minister agree or not agree with this? What will she do to stop the incredible morass of legal hoops people have to go through and the amazing amount of time they have to spend to get appropriate education for their children today?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I think the rules are relatively clear. It is the intention that by September 1, 1985, each board in Ontario will have the capacity to provide the appropriate educational program for all exceptional children, either within its own jurisdiction or as a result of agreement with another jurisdiction.

In 1980, boards were at different levels of sophistication in the area of capability to meet

those requirements. That was the reason the honourable member agreed to the phasing-in program. As well, he agreed to it because he recognized that not all boards had the same capability. He also recognized that there would need to be a transition period.

There is no doubt that what we were talking about was public education. We determined that the children who were to be served were to be those who were resident pupils within a board's jurisdiction. That is the only rule that has been changed; the pupil must be a resident pupil within a board's jurisdiction who is enrolled with a public board or a separate board to be considered seriously for the kind of supplemental activity which my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services has been looking after under the vocational rehabilitation program.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the minister will well remember December 1980, I believe it was, just before the last election, when the final draft of Bill 82 was hammered through on the floor of this Legislature. It was one of the few times when there was a genuine attempt at consensus among the three political parties in this House. We all believed deeply in the principle behind it.

Does the minister recall there was also a consensus at that time that we were doing the best we knew how, given the information that was available? However, and the minister just mentioned this herself, we agreed that flaws, loopholes and omissions would become apparent during the phase-in period and that prior to September 1985 changes would be made to adequately address those problems.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: My first question was whether the minister recalled that. Second, does the minister also recall that the figure of \$75 million was the best educational guess that was available? However, there was also an agreement that if it required more—and my recollection is that it was up to \$200 million—the money would be provided.

Will the minister not agree that there are enough flaws—unintentional yes, but nevertheless there—that there are some omissions, that there are some changes required, that there is additional funding required and that, prior to September 1985, the legislation must be reviewed and amended?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am not at all sure the legislation requires amendment, and I certainly do not recall the figure of \$200 million. That was the honourable member's suggestion at one point about the estimated cost.

The best estimate that could have been developed at the time was the \$75-million figure. We have monitored that very carefully over the years, and I think we are right on target, if we are looking at the way the funding has been delivered.

The question I have to ask now, and I ask it of the advisory committee, is whether we should continue to flow the funds on the basis upon which they have been flowed in the past three and a half years, which recognizes the different levels of capabilities of the various boards. The intent is that all the boards will be at equal capability on September 1, 1985.

Should we then, as the Ontario Teachers' Federation has asked and as some other parent advocacy groups have asked, produce directed funding specifically for special education, forgetting the principle that elected boards of education are made up of adults who must have some capability and understanding of this matter? They should have the opportunity to deliver funds on the basis of their assessment of the appropriate means within their own jurisdictions. That is the question we are debating at present within the school system. We are also looking at those flaws we have found, some of which have already been corrected as a result of joint action we have taken with other ministries.

This is not the end of an era; it is the beginning of an era. The level of sophistication we all had at the beginning of this debate has changed now. We really are on the threshold of dealing with the problems of exceptional children. We do not know all the answers and we will never be entirely perfect, because this matter relates to the problems of young people learning and adults, who happen to be human beings as well, attempting to help them learn. Since all human beings are essentially imperfect, I do not anticipate perfection. I simply anticipate that we shall continue to do our very best, in joint operation, to deal with the problems so those young people will have the most appropriate educational program.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Education on the same matter. It may be that we are moving towards nirvana, but in the meantime, the hardest-to-deal-with kids are getting messed up. I take the appeals and I know. We cannot win.

Will the minister agree with the recommendation from the parents' group that has been brought to her today? It suggests section 7a of the regulations to the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act, which covers a lot of the kids caught in this interim period, should be repealed

because it is a catch-22 situation. It does not allow the Social Assistance Review Board to determine the merits of a case but does allow school boards to veto the possibility of the board even making a decision.

The Minister of Community and Social Services said he would talk to the Minister of Education about this. Has he done so? Is the minister willing to have this section repealed so that at least we can have real hearings for these kids?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the role of the school board is to inform the appeal board whether it has a program within its jurisdiction or is supporting a program in a neighbouring jurisdiction that could provide the appropriate educational experience for those children. That is a board's responsibility to state.

The Minister of Community and Social Services has not yet spoken to me about this specific matter, and I have not yet received the outpouring of the group the honourable member is talking about. I have not yet seen it. It has not been delivered to me today to this point. When I have seen it, I shall consider it.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It was delivered this morning at 8:30.

Is the minister not aware that it is not only a matter of the board giving a letter saying it can or cannot provide a program, but also, in the absence of a letter from the board, if the school board does not say anything about its capacity to provide, a matter of the Social Assistance Review Board saying it cannot make a decision on the merits of this child because that letter is missing? A child can wait months for that kind of hearing. The Social Assistance Review Board can wait 90 or 100 days to get a ruling. A child can miss a whole school year because of a technicality.

Will the minister not see that the horrible regulation is rescinded immediately, and not by the end of the summer, as the minister said, so we can help those children who are not in the school system to maintain the present appropriate education they are receiving?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I said that when I see the recommendations, I shall most seriously consider them.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not realize that boards of education across the province are being very resistant on this point and on other points related to special education

because of the fear that the minister is not going to provide sufficient funding?

Will the minister not admit, as members of boards of education and officials and people from the teachers' federations have contended, that this year she has folded that \$14.4 million into her general legislative grant? They have no faith that in 1985, when all this money is going to be required, it is going to be there, because of the way programs such as continuing education have been treated in the past, by mandating them and then pulling out the financial rug just when the programs are in place.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member speaks with a forked tongue as usual. That individual knows full well that we continue to mandate continuing education programs for credit purposes and that it is an important function of the Ministry of Education.

If the member would simply reread history, he would understand the funding has been folded in for four years now. Does he not realize that? It is there and it has been there. I have made the commitment—

Mr. Bradley: You are the one causing the—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Why does the member not sit down? He does not want an answer.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Would you not agree that the phrase "speaking with a forked tongue" is as objectionable as "hypocrite," and would you assist the minister in keeping her responses parliamentary?

Mr. Speaker: I must point out to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, as he full well knows perhaps better than any other member in this House, that there is a list compiled by those who are much more knowledgeable than the rest of us.

Mr. Nixon: I am trying to assist you with consistency.

Mr. Speaker: I know, but I go by the printed word and I must say that, to the best of my knowledge, subject to correction, the one word appears on the list and the other phrase does not.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As somebody who has taken the first case before the minister's provincial tribunal for a leave-to-appeal process, I wonder whether she would agree with me that the fifth recommendation of this group is very appropriate, given who she has put on those tribunals.

They are recommending that section 36 of the Education Act be amended as well as section 7 of

Ontario regulation 554/81, regulations to the Ontario act, to provide for the creation of fair and impartial appellate tribunals whose members shall not be employees or agents or representatives of a board of education or ministry of the government.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If I may say in response to the earlier comment, my statement was anatomical, related to the genus zoologicus of the individual involved. I promised the member that I would look at those recommendations and consider them seriously.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy. It concerns radioactive pollution and emissions from Ontario Hydro.

I wonder whether the minister can explain why Ontario Hydro is apparently fighting recommendations from Environment Canada. We have received information about this under the federal freedom of information act with respect to correspondence between Environment Canada and others.

Can the minister explain why Ontario Hydro is fighting basic recommendations from Environment Canada which would protect the public from the dangers of radioactive pollution in Lake Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure it is fair to say that Ontario Hydro is fighting regulations being suggested by Environment Canada. I think Ontario Hydro is somewhat confused by the signals that are coming from Environment Canada in that the current regulations on radiation have been promulgated by the Atomic Energy Control Board and have always fallen under that jurisdiction.

Ontario Hydro has reinforced the position of the AECB and has asked that the signals and the control of radiation and radiation emissions be clarified by the government of Canada as to the jurisdiction in which it should be dealt with.

Mr. Rae: Since the minister has spoken so favourably about the AECB, I wonder whether he would care to comment on the remarks of Mr. Liberty Pease from Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., who wrote to Environment Canada summing up the attitude of those who oppose control, saying:

"Not only do I see no particular obligation on the part of the present generation for the comfort of future generations, but I also think we underestimate the ingenuity of future generations to control pollution from the technologies they devise."

Is that also the position that is being taken by Ontario Hydro? Also, is the minister denying that tritium pollution in Lake Ontario has gone up by about 60 per cent in the last two years?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: On the question of tritium pollution in Lake Ontario, Ontario Hydro has always lived well within the levels of pollution allowed under the guidelines of the AECB, and it intends to live within those levels. I think it is unfair to suggest that Ontario Hydro be held up as an example of having flouted those regulations.

We have in Ontario Hydro an example of a corporation that has done an admirable job in dealing with the problem of radiation in Lake Ontario. I can only repeat, as I said at the outset, that Hydro is looking for some clear direction in terms of the future control of that problem.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, since the minister and his predecessors have allowed Ontario Hydro to proceed with many of its radioactive developments without the assessment required by provincial law, does he not feel that he has a special responsibility, along with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt), to make the decisions on behalf of Ontario Hydro that affect the environment? The point is, he and his predecessors have allowed them to escape environmental assessment in many of their projects; so a special responsibility devolves on the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say the Minister of the Environment and myself continue to exercise that degree of consideration within the operation of Ontario Hydro.

I am simply saying the rules and regulations as set down and the radiation emission guidelines are those set down by the AECB. The record will show that Hydro has been eminent in living within those regulations.

Mr. Rae: If, as we understand, Environment Canada has recommended that there be a reduction in tritium to about one sixth of what is currently being emitted and a reduction in what is called gross beta, which includes strontium 90, by about 3,000 times; if it is the view of Environment Canada that those kinds of improvement are technologically possible, and since we know tritium is a carcinogen, or cancer-causing agent, can the minister please tell us why Ontario Hydro cancelled the tritium recovery project in 1983?

Can the minister tell us why Ontario Hydro today is resisting technological improvements that would protect the health of this generation

and of future generations? Why is he supporting Ontario Hydro when it is doing something that clearly is morally indefensible?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I think it is quite an exaggeration to suggest that Ontario Hydro's operations are morally indefensible. Ontario Hydro has lived well within those guidelines; in fact, it has consistently been well under them.

The tritium removal program will proceed in tandem with construction of the Darlington plant. The member knows that. I have no reason to suggest that Ontario Hydro will not live within those rules.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of the Environment has the answer to a previously asked question—a brief answer, I would suggest.

TAR SPILL

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) asked a question with respect to a spill that occurred at Stelco involving some tar-like material. That spill did take place on May 27 at eight o'clock and, according to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act, my ministry was informed approximately one hour later at nine o'clock.

Our best estimate is that about 800,000 to one million gallons of this tar-like substance were released from the storage tank and I am pleased to indicate there was no measurable environmental impact either immediately off the site or in Hamilton harbour.

My ministry is monitoring the situation and we expect that two to three days will be required for the final cleanup. The amount of material that did leak from the tank was as extensive as I indicated primarily because the rupture in the tank occurred at the bottom part of it, and because of the location of the rupture it was virtually impossible to stem the flow of the material.

As per the question raised by the honourable member, we are reviewing the issue of the integrity of the tanks and the question of inspections as well, and I will get back to him with a more detailed report on it, because it is still under investigation.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, in view of the spill that the minister has just divulged to this House and in view of the fact that only seven people showed up at a public meeting advertised, supposedly, by his ministry to amend the control order for Stelco, will the minister respond to the demands of Local 1005 of the United Steelworkers in Hamilton that a new meeting be

convened to reconsider the decision to extend the amending control order?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the local's request for additional hearings with respect to the control order. I share the honourable member's disappointment over the small number of people who did show up and some of the allegations that emerged with respect to short notice and the time for which the meeting was called.

I have not discussed this fully with my staff, but I am prepared to give the member an undertaking that we will hold a further meeting to discuss that control order in the Hamilton area.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, in responding further on this situation, can the minister find out if there was a recent inspection of that tank by one of the company superintendents and whether or not that tank was classified at the time as being in a deplorable condition? Can he report back to this House on that situation?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had covered that in my initial response. I have the same concerns as those being raised by the honourable member. At this time we do not have the information with respect to the integrity of the tank or the inspection process; but my ministry officials are looking into it, and I will be quite prepared to respond with respect to when the last investigation or inspection took place and the condition of the tank. We will also be putting into place a more extensive monitoring system with respect to future inspections of those particular vessels. I will be happy to respond.

AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the clerk-treasurer of Middlesex county is in your gallery to observe at first hand the inadequacies of a government that is prepared to place all its responsibilities on the shoulders of the local councils.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Riddell: I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In view of the fact that the government could find absolutely no money in its recent budget to introduce any new programs to help the farming industry of this province—and let him not give us that 16 per cent increase bit, because that is purely illusory and does not go towards any new programs whatsoever—how can the minister justify the expenditure of \$120,000 of public funds to conduct a poll last year of 600 beef producers—that is \$200 per

producer—which evidently was taken to test industry conditions?

Can the minister tell us why he needs to spend \$120,000 to tell him that beef farmers in Ontario are in dire straits, in view of all the submissions he has received from various agricultural groups? Last year the Liberal Party called for an emergency debate on the dire straits of the red meat industry and the government refused to allow the debate. Why did the minister have to spend \$120,000 when we have been telling him right along that the beef industry is in dire straits?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, for the record, in 1983-84 this ministry spent approximately \$283 million, and in 1984-85 we have been allocated \$334.7 million to fund a variety of new programs. This is the second year of the beginning farmer assistance program. The red meat development program, for which a \$12.5-million allocation has been made, is a new program in fiscal year 1984-85 that will carry on for five years.

The honourable member will also be aware that we have spent a great deal of time and public resources in looking at all aspects of the problems of the red meat industry. In the past, I have acknowledged my appreciation for the submissions made by the member opposite. I do not believe the member has all the answers to the problems of the red meat industry any more than I do. We have tried to be sure that we canvass all aspects of it, including an objective, independent survey of producers themselves, one that could not be biased in any way, shape or form according to the source of the request for the information.

Mr. Riddell: In view of the fact that other provinces are currently introducing programs to help their farmers who are in trouble, can the minister tell us why he continues to refuse to provide some emergency financial assistance for the farmers of this province?

As the minister well knows, Saskatchewan has recently introduced a \$25-per-head income tax credit for beef cattle, and \$5 per head for hogs and \$2 per head for lambs.

New Brunswick has introduced a program for pork producers to set aside a portion of long-term debt for both Farm Credit Corp. and provincial government loans at zero per cent interest until the market price for hogs exceeds the provincial stabilization price by \$5 per hundredweight.

Why can other provinces offer assistance to their farmers without jeopardizing tripartite stabilization, and all the minister can do is say, "Any assistance I offer the farmers of Ontario

would appear to be bargaining in bad faith for tripartite stabilization"? When is the minister finally going to become so embarrassed about his comments in the House regarding the agricultural industry in this province that he will follow the trend set by other provinces and say, "Our farmers need help. I am prepared to give them that kind of assistance until the tripartite stabilization program comes into effect"?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I do not intend to go through the whole litany of new programs we have introduced, but I will remind the member of a couple. First, there is the rather generous increase in the municipal farm tax rebate program, which in 1984 and beyond will rebate 60 per cent of municipal taxes on eligible farms. That will result in a \$90-million allocation in my budget this year.

Mr. Riddell: You took away their 100 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: So what? The fact is—

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Were you in favour of it?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Where do you stand on the 100 per cent?

Mr. Riddell: Do I hear the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton)? Maybe he would like to ask a question.

Mr. Bradley: We ask the questions.

Mr. Riddell: When we are over there after the next election, we will answer the questions.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Don't hold your breath or you are going to suffocate.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Liberal arrogance.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It is rather interesting—

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Where do you stand?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am amazed the honourable member would have the gall to make that kind of an interjection. As I recall, when we discussed this issue at length at estimates last year he was on all sides of the question. He never did take a position one way or the other. He is like the fellow who said, "Some of my constituents are in favour, some of my constituents are opposed, and I am with my constituents." That is the way he is almost all the time.

Mr. Ruston: The minister has no farm constituents.

Ms. Copps: Are you consulting with Adrienne Clarkson?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: On top of all that, the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) believes in high interest rates for farmers.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, recognizing that—

Mr. Riddell: One of my colleagues said the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) was lying, Mr. Speaker, and I am inclined to agree with him.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member please resume his seat? Now, I presume, the member for Welland-Thorold can place his question without being provocative.

Mr. Swart: I think maybe I was provocative and not somebody who is feeling guilty.

Mr. Riddell: Not a bit.

Mr. Ruston: I know \$1.99 was paid for four litres of milk the other day—right in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: The minister will recognize that a question was posed to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) by myself when this minister was not in the House, relative to the fact that the budget contained no funds whatsoever for red meat stabilization. He may recall, if he read Hansard, the Treasurer said if that program came in before this fiscal year was finished, he would find the money for it.

If there was nothing in that budget at all for red meat stabilization, does that not mean he anticipates that program will not be in effect this year—or at least that he will not be making any payments? If he does not make any payments until March 31, 1985, does that not really mean the red meat producers will get little or no stabilization payments in 1985 at all? Is this not what it will mean unless the minister puts in a funded program up front?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, first, I would point out there is no support among the red meat producer organizations in this province for a retroactive subsidy that would jeopardize the tripartite stabilization plan. They have indicated this in writing, particularly the Ontario Cattle-men's Association. It is their view that this would destroy the plan.

Second, as the Treasurer has said, when the agreements are signed the money will be allocated. Then I will have to go to the Chairman of Management Board and the full board of cabinet to find that money.

Third, the federal Minister of Agriculture has given his word in writing and in public on a

number of occasions that he will amend the Agricultural Stabilization Act of Canada during the present sitting of the federal Parliament. He has four weeks left within which to keep his word. I am sure the member for Huron-Middlesex is calling the federal minister on a regular basis. If not, I will give him his number again and maybe now he can get his digital people working on the dial.

Mr. Riddell: As a matter of fact, I called him today.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Fourth, once the federal minister and the federal government keep their word with respect to the amendments to the Agricultural Stabilization Act, we will finalize the agreement at the annual meeting of ministers to be held in Winnipeg on July 23 to 25.

Fifth, the portions of the tripartite stabilization plan for hogs, slaughter cattle, backgrounders and sheep are quarterly programs, so we should be able to put those into place very soon after the agreement.

One would hope, of course, that the current market will be as strong as possible, in which case they may not have to draw on the program. If it is not, it is entirely possible there will be benefits payable in fiscal 1984-85, because they will be quarterly programs. The program for the cow-calf sector will be an annual program which should begin on or about the same date as the others but be calculated a year later.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. How does he justify his defiance of the Legislature when he apparently said to a radio reporter, Mr. Sam Bornstein, on May 16 after a cabinet meeting that, as Minister of Health, he will not act on the resolution to implement Ontario health insurance plan coverage for medically necessary travel when the Legislature voted overwhelmingly by 52 to 17 in favour of it?

The cabinet present voted seven to six in favour, the Tories present voted 23 to 17 in favour and the opposition voted unanimously in favour. Does the minister not think he has a responsibility not only to the Legislature but also to the people of the north to provide equal access to health care and to implement that program?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, my recollection of the resolution is that it did not apply only to the northern part of this province. The member went to some considerable length to try to make it not a specifically northern Ontario resolution.

Supporting the principle of such a resolution and facing the pragmatic responsibility of implementing a policy that might be consistent with the principle are two quite different matters.

The member might be interested to know that the discussion I had with the press on the occasion that gave rise to the story to which he is referring was a little broader than that. I did point out that the cost implications of implementing such a resolution were very extensive and that estimates I had seen ranged from \$60 million to \$75 million a year.

I felt if the members really wanted to see that kind of new spending initiated within my ministry, they would also have to recognize certain sacrifices would have to be made and one might well concern the enhancement of health care services in the northern part of the province, in which the member has expressed a particular interest. If he is saying he would rather not have us spend money to improve health care services in the north but rather spend that money on travelling costs, then fine, he should say that.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister stop using false and misleading arguments when he talks about putting more services into the north because he has cut the budget for the underserved—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Port Arthur—

Mr. Foulds: Well, it is. Where does he get the argument—

Mr. Speaker: The member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Foulds: —that he uses with a reporter when in his written answer he says that the Ministry of Health has conducted no study into the cost of the program. Where does he get his false and misleading argument?

Mr. Speaker: The member knows full well that kind of language is not allowed in this House. I ask him to withdraw the remarks and rephrase his question in compliance with standard parliamentary language.

Mr. Foulds: I will not rephrase the question until the Minister of Health proves his statement he gave to a reporter because—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am not interested in receiving a conditional compliance with my request. I ask the member to withdraw the offensive language.

Mr. Foulds: No, Mr. Speaker, it is a question of equality and a question of service for northern Ontario and all the people of this province. This minister is playing fast and loose with the truth.

Mr. Speaker: If I heard you clearly, you said you were not going to comply.

Mr. Foulds: That is right.

Mr. Speaker: Then I have no alternative but to ask you to withdraw. I name the member for Port Arthur and ask him to leave the chamber.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Martel: This has got to be done legally. We want a Sergeant at Arms.

Mr. Speaker: We do not have one today. I am sorry.

Mr. Foulds was escorted from the chamber.

Mr. Rotenberg: Good acting. Give him an Academy Award.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I noted there was no sword out. I was wondering if the legislative assistant might have had a nine iron he was going to use to assist the member for Port Arthur.

My supplementary goes back to that number of \$75 million to \$90 million, whatever it is. Is the minister prepared to share with us the research that brought those numbers to him? Can he share with the members of the Legislature how he got those estimates and give us some details on them?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I was on my feet a moment ago, before the member for Port Arthur departed, wanting to explain for his benefit the distinction between a study and an estimate.

The fact is that there has not been any detailed study; we have not had the opportunity to do such a detailed study of the matter. Therefore, the answer to the question in Orders and Notices was being perfectly honest.

Likewise, I was being forthright with the members of the Legislature in presenting to them the results of a preliminary estimate that had been made on the basis of a calculation of average costs of transportation, multiplied by the data we have on the number of patients who have received service in hospitals in southern Ontario and who have been discharged from those hospitals to return to home addresses in northern Ontario that they had given the hospital.

That is not necessarily a detailed and reliable study, but it is, nevertheless, a very sensible way in which to approach a preliminary estimate of the costs. That is how we arrived at the \$60 million to \$75 million.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. He will be aware that a large delegation of tobacco pro-

ducers from Norfolk county and southwestern Ontario, headed by the executive of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, travelled to Ottawa last week demanding the inclusion of tobacco as a marketable controlled product in federal legislation.

What steps is the minister taking to support them in this demand? What advice is he offering to the farmers and to his colleague the federal minister in taking some action that is going to assist the tobacco producers in their calamitous marketing situation?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, over a year ago the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board presented to the federal minister and to me a draft of what it proposed could form the basis of a national plan at some point.

As recently as last week its representatives met with the federal minister, who apparently indicated to them he could proceed with the introduction and the passage of legislation in the current sitting of the federal Parliament to include tobacco under the federal legislation, which covers the marketing plans for chicken, eggs and turkey.

I have indicated in the past that where our growers vote for such a plan, there is a mechanism in provincial law to implement such a decision. However, there are a number of uncertainties about the current situation.

First, as we discussed earlier in question period, we are waiting for the federal minister to honour an earlier commitment to bring in the necessary amendments to the Agricultural Stabilization Act concerning the tripartite program for red meat.

Second, I understand that after the delegation's meeting with Mr. Whelan it met with the chairman of the National Farm Products Marketing Council, who indicated that even if—and it is a big if—the legislation were to pass the federal Parliament this sitting, it could take a minimum of eight months to put such a plan in place.

Third, I am led to believe that the producers in certain other provinces have already indicated they are not interested in joining in a national plan. Of course, for a national plan to be effective, it should be all-encompassing.

Fourth, there are those who apparently believe a national plan for tobacco would eliminate imports of tobacco from other countries. Such is not the case. Because of our agreements under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other treaties to which Canada is a signatory, we would continue to have imports of tobacco at

historic levels, which tend to be somewhere in the order of five to six million pounds per year.

There are a number of uncertainties. I really cannot predict with any certainty at all what is going to happen with this proposal for a national plan. The first thing that has to be done is for the appropriate legislation to be amended in Ottawa at some point.

Mr. Nixon: If imports can be limited to about five million pounds of tobacco, which is a very small proportion of the total pack, and if the farmers can be given the power and the right to establish their prices on the basis of the cost of production, which is some 40 cents a pound more than they would get under the present circumstances, is there a downside the producers should be considering? Should they be pressing ahead in every way, one hopes with the support of this minister, in the situation as it is evolving?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have some concerns about our export market, to be sure. The offer which was voted down two weeks ago this Friday was for 91 million pounds minimum production for domestic purposes and 79 million pounds for export, 25 million of which is speculative on the part of the manufacturers. Frankly, this poundage came about because of some intervention on our part to try to encourage more export of tobacco and therefore to have a better crop size this year.

I do have some concerns. I have outlined some problems. Some people think the imports can be stopped, but they cannot be. Some people think such a plan would preserve in perpetuity everyone who is producing tobacco today; it would not. It is not a panacea, a cure-all.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. He will be aware that at the beginning of this week we had yet another plant closure at the International Minerals and Chemical Corp. plant at Port Maitland. There are another 160 workers. The average age in the plant is 40, although the range is from 20 to 60. Most are married with children. They received less than two months' notice of the closure of the plant.

Can the minister tell us what advance notice he had as to this closure? Can he also tell us whether he is now prepared to take a look at both earlier notification and some form of public justification before workers are thrown to the wolves, as has happened again in this case?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first question, I had notification approximate-

ly three days ahead of the actual announcement. Am I prepared to take a look at earlier disclosure? The answer is yes. Am I prepared to take a look at justification? The answer is no.

PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I want to raise a subject that concerns me. It has developed as a result of some concerns with diction around this place this afternoon. I think that somehow, some way, time has passed us all by here. However, I see an anomaly that has developed which I think is frankly unacceptable.

I saw a member removed from the Legislature for using the word "misleading," which is unfortunate. It is generally accepted around here that one cannot accuse a member of being misleading or causing someone to deliberately mislead other members of the House. Yet I see you have allowed a reference to a member "speaking with a forked tongue" to stand. Where I come from that means a lie or prevarication.

3:30 p.m.

I refer you to the standing orders where it states quite clearly that no member shall make "allegations against another member," impute "false or unavowed motives to another member" or charge "another member with uttering a deliberate falsehood." I suggest, with all respect, that perhaps it would be prudent to re-examine the list of words you find to be at variance with acceptable behaviour in this House, with a view to seeing that some equity and some common sense are developed.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of privilege, with all respect.

Ms. Copps: It certainly is.

Mr. Speaker: It certainly is not.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I will not compete with you. I am referring to my privileges as a member of the House.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member will resume his seat right now.

Mr. Roy: It is a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: It may very well be, but it is not a point of privilege.

I point out to the honourable member, as I have done so many times before and will do once more, it is not only the use of offensive language but the manner in which it is used. It is not a matter of using offensive words; it is a matter of how they are used and in what context. I am charged with the responsibility of making that

decision and I shall carry out that responsibility to the best of my ability. Thank you.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not going to listen to any more.

Mr. Cunningham: How can you tell what I am going to say?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Please resume your seat right now.

Mr. Cunningham: I implore you to hear me. You cannot know what I am going to say.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard you and I am not going to argue with you.

Mr. Cunningham: I find your ruling unacceptable. How can you tell what I am going to say until you hear what I have to say?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, why do you not hear a point of order?

Mr. Speaker: I have heard it.

Mr. Roy: Can I just raise a point?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to argue with you.

Mr. Roy: I want to raise a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: No.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order on a different question. I wonder if the Speaker could clarify for the new members, the rookies in the House who have only been around here for a few years, the difference in approach or behaviour that somehow made the comment of "hypocrite" by a member on this side of the House unacceptable and the comment of "forked tongue" acceptable. Can you explain what correct behaviour we should adopt to have the comment "forked tongue" accepted by this House?

Mr. Speaker: I suppose you are asking me to impose on you matters of behaviour that should have been learned elsewhere; I am not sure. I can tell you that the responsibility is mine and mine alone.

Mr. Roy: We know that. How do you impose it? That is all we want to know.

Mr. Speaker: I impose it with extreme fairness, with extreme patience and with extreme tolerance. In my short experience in this House, and it may be immodest of me to say so but I am going to say it anyway, I do not know of any other Speaker who has demonstrated patience or tolerance to the degree I have.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, this is on a different matter.

Mr. Nixon: Before we leave this one, Mr. Speaker, I know this is a difficult day for you and some others, but surely when the honourable member rose in his place on a point of privilege which he changed to a point of order—it is always difficult for everybody to determine what is right there—and asked you to consider the list of acceptable or unacceptable words, he was acting in the best interests of all of us here. It seemed to me unfair, not so much in its application, but in the rigidity by which certain words are taboo and certain others, the ones used by the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), are acceptable.

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, I would point out once more to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and all other members in this House that I had no part to play in the compilation of that list.

An hon. member: Zoological terms are okay.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Diagnostic terms.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the clerk at the table would pull out the copy of Beauchesne that is at his elbow. That is the book in which the words are compiled. I only use the direction that is given me. I do not make the rules; I only interpret them. There are certain words contained in that book that are considered by all Speakers in all parliamentary jurisdictions of the Commonwealth not to be acceptable.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On the same point, if we are to use medical terminology, would it be acceptable to call a member a pathological liar?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have ruled there is no point.

Mr. Cunningham: Your application is not consistent

Mr. Speaker: Certainly it is.

Mr. Cunningham: It is not.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to argue.

Mr. Riddell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: A little different matter that has often bothered me is, when certain members of the House continue to distort the truth, as the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) is oft wont to do, what recourse do members have to bring them to task? Are we simply expected to sit in our place and listen to them continue this practice?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: You will have to exercise your authority. You see what happens when you allow

cabinet ministers to get away with violations of the rules of this House.

Mr. Speaker: I am not letting anybody violate anything. Maybe that is the problem.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you want to have on the record that the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) speaks with forked tongue.

Mr. Cunningham: That is exactly the problem.

Mr. Speaker: I understand it full well.

Mr. Cunningham: If you had not accepted wrong diction in the first instance, you would not have it now. You should never have tolerated it. You just impose a lower standard on this place.

Mr. Speaker: Now we are sanctimonious.

Mr. Cunningham: You get the danger pay. I do not.

Mr. Speaker: I accept that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Are you thinking on your feet, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not. I am waiting until people pay attention. The member for Huron-Middlesex has raised a point that I think I have dealt with innumerable times, maybe even earlier today. He is asking me as the Speaker to make a judgement, which I am not going to do. It is not within my jurisdiction to do so. I have no idea whether the member for Welland-Thorold distorted or did not distort the truth. That is not my function in this House.

Mr. Breagh: But you are wrong to let the record stay as it is.

Mr. McClellan: I assume there is a precedent there in what he said, that he can accuse someone of deliberately distorting the truth.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is how you say it really or whether it is a pathological problem.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not. Everyone is an expert. I shall take a look at Hansard, consider it and report back.

Mr. Cassidy: It is just like Animal Farm: Tories good, opposition bad.

Mr. Speaker: I will not comment on that.

[Later]

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not want to delay unduly your ruling on the question of what is offensive and unparliamentary. I quite appreciate what you say, that the Speaker has to be given extreme flexibility.

If one were to go through Beauchesne to review everything said there, there would be no more parliamentary debate, and the opposition

would be completely stifled. I could not call the people across the way "stupid," for instance. That has been ruled to be unparliamentary, even though sometimes it is most factual. There are also words such as "deceive" or "debate" which are regularly used.

I note that in Beauchesne, page 115 states, "An expression which is deemed to be unparliamentary today does not necessarily have to be deemed unparliamentary next week." It is a strange process.

I go back to the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) when he said that some people would say the minister's approach was hypocritical; in some circumstances that would not necessarily be unparliamentary, just as when the minister says someone "talks with forked tongue," that may or may not be unparliamentary.

When the guidelines are imposed and when you are making your decision, we are asking that there be some objectivity in the application of the rules so that we know there are some circumstances wherein even though a word is used it does not automatically require retraction or apology on the part of the member.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the member for Ottawa East.

Mr. Kerr: It was a lesson.

Mr. Speaker: It was indeed, because he made my point for me. It is a very difficult position, and it is very difficult to gauge the temper in which certain language is used. I thought and still think that I have and will continue to demonstrate a degree of evenhandedness and flexibility that will not—this is important—diminish the level of debate. That is something we must all work towards and maintain in this House.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if it would bring some finality to this debate, I would be willing to withdraw the use of an expression which I do not believe is unparliamentary but which has offended the ultrasensitive psyche of some of those across the floor so dramatically today. It would be appropriate if all of us were to observe that, because it is my observation that the members on the opposite side of the House like to throw those epithets but they do not like to receive them. So I shall withdraw it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McClellan: That kind of ungracious apology we do not need. The problem is the application of the rules evenly on both sides of the House.

Mr. Speaker: I rest my case with the observations that were made by the member for Ottawa East.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing the constituencies of Wentworth (Mr. Dean) and Oriole (Mr. Williams), I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private member's bill of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wine in small, independent grocery stores."

This petition is signed by 108 people, mostly from the area of St. George and Paris, Ontario, which brings the total to 6,525.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

3:40 p.m.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that standing order 72(a) respecting notice of committee hearings be

suspended for the consideration of Bill Pr21, An Act respecting the Harold and Grace Baker Centre, by the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments on Thursday, May 31, 1984.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Baetz, first reading of Bill 84, An Act to amend the Executive Council Act.

Motion agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Baetz, first reading of Bill 85, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, these two bills change the indemnity and remuneration for members of the executive council, other special allowances and expense allowances for the members of this Legislature.

Members will recall that the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses brought in a report recommending a five per cent increase for all these allowances and members' indemnity. In conformance with the Inflation Restraint Board's guidelines, the amount of increase here is 4.39 per cent, which represents the difference between the fringe benefit package paid to members of the Legislature and five per cent.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ACT

Mr. McClellan moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes, first reading of Bill 86, An Act to declare the Rights of Children in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill, which I introduced once before in 1979, is to declare the rights of children in Ontario and to provide a means for enforcing those rights.

The bill sets out a series of rights belonging to children who are residents in Ontario and states that every parent and the government of Ontario have a duty to protect those rights.

In certain circumstances, an application can be made to a judge for a determination in the form of a judicial declaration on whether a duty to a child is being fulfilled and the nature of that duty.

The bill provides further guarantees for children in any proceeding concerning matters

affecting the guardianship, custody or status of children.

RIGHT TO FARM ACT

Mr. Riddell moved, seconded by Mr. McGuigan, first reading of Bill 87, An Act to protect Farming Operations against Nuisance Claims.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, this bill is intended to encourage the preservation of farm land by protecting farmers who carry on normal and non-negligent farming operations from nuisance claims by neighbouring land owners.

3:50 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 57, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act.

YOUNG OFFENDERS IMPLEMENTATION ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 28, An Act to provide for the Implementation of the Young Offenders Act (Canada).

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, when I adjourned the debate last night, I had finished about all the response I had planned to make.

I just want to say that Bill 28 is a very good bill; it is a very thoughtful bill. In all the debate that has taken place here on two occasions, Bill 28 has not been criticized. A lot of other things may have been criticized, but not Bill 28.

I commend the bill to the Legislature. It is going to committee. This ministry has always co-operated with committees. It should be very interesting to see what is brought forward in committee.

I think this is perhaps the wrong bill to single out as a protest, because it deals with a very important subject. It deals with the ramifications of the changes brought about by the Young Offenders Act, a federal piece of legislation. The bill deals only with youths under 16; it implements only what has been proclaimed by the federal government.

I believe that as an implementation bill it will be more than sufficient to ensure that the goals of those who worked over so many years to develop the Young Offenders Act in the federal House, to

pass it and to proclaim it, will be more than met at the delivery stage.

4:15 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Drea's motion for second reading of Bill 28, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Harris, Havrot, Henderson, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, McCafrey, McCague, McLean, McMurtry, Miller, F. S., Mitchell;

Norton, Piché, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Williams, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Boudria, Bradley, Breaugh, Breithaupt, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, Copps, Cunningham, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Grande, Haggerty, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Lupusella;

Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Philip, Rae, Renwick, Riddell, Roy, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Sargent, Stokes, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne.

Ayes 62; nays 42.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

4:20 p.m.

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Rotenberg moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, second reading of Bill 61, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to make a number of amendments to the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act. The bill is similar to Bill 137, which received first reading last fall but was not proceeded with because of lack of time.

Mr. Laughren: That was not the reason. You are speaking with a forked tongue.

Mr. Speaker: Who said that?

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, that remark was made in jest, with tongue in cheek, and I will let it go by. But I would draw to your attention that a tongue in cheek is much different from a forked tongue. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that you consider whether "forked tongue" is out of order, because it does really indicate a lack of confidence in the veracity of the speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Rotenberg: May I proceed, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rotenberg: I am glad so many members of the Legislature are interested in this legislation.

As I was saying, the bill was not proceeded with last fall because of lack of time, but many provisions in this act are already in the Municipal Act and in other regional acts. The proposed legislation makes a number of individual changes in the act. It establishes the right of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto to charge for providing copies of documents to members of the public. It reinstates Metro's ability to establish reserves. It will enable Metropolitan Toronto to operate in English or, if it prefers, in English and French. Because boundary adjustments are now dealt with in the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act, it will delete the provisions in the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act for boundary adjustments.

In 1983, Etobicoke, Scarborough and York were made cities by regulations under the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act. The bill will make a number of minor alterations to the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act to reflect the fact that these municipalities are now cities.

A number of additional provisions have been included in the bill at the request of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. One such provision will change the basis for apportioning costs for Metro purposes by revising the definition of "total rateable property" to reflect the differential between the residential mill rate and the commercial mill rate. Another will enable the trustees of Metro pension funds to exercise the powers of a corporation when buying or selling real property.

In addition, Metro will be given the authority to spend the accumulated interest for the years 1955 to 1973 from the trust funds of residents of homes for the aged for the benefit of residents of those homes. A further provision will clarify that

the revenue from fines for contraventions of the building code belong to the area municipalities and not to Metro.

A very important provision of this bill will remove the 25 per cent limit on the amount that Metropolitan Toronto can contribute to area municipality projects to separate sanitary and storm sewers. The municipality of Metropolitan Toronto has requested this change in order to reduce the load on its sewage treatment facilities and to minimize the amount of untreated effluent that will in future reach Metro's beaches.

With those few comments I commend the bill to the Legislature and ask for approval of second reading.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak to this bill, which in many respects is a housekeeping bill. I find it somewhat odd that the parliamentary assistant indicated we were not able to pass this last fall because of lack of time, implying, I thought, that the Legislature was in a hurry to get out and that we therefore did not have time to pass this bill.

He may want to clarify that, but I did not see anything in here that was very controversial, and I do not think we as a Legislature would have held this bill up, certainly not from this side of the House, if Metropolitan Toronto wanted to have the bill. Certainly the fact that it has been held up for a good number of months since last fall is no fault of this opposition party or of opposition at all, because he was implying it was held up by lack of time.

I find it a little difficult to understand why in this age of greater municipal autonomy we are only now getting to the point where Metropolitan Toronto can charge more than 15 cents per copy for photocopying some of its documents for citizens, corporations and businesses that come in for copies. We are in an age when we should be encouraging municipalities to do their own thing.

Metropolitan Toronto has budgets that are in excess of \$1 billion, and we are saying it does not have the expertise, the knowhow and the maturity to be able to make a decision to charge anybody more than 15 cents for a photocopy. We have finally got to that point now, but until 1984 we were not able to give Metropolitan Toronto that power. Until only a few months ago, we were not able to give other municipalities that power.

I find it difficult to understand how we can say we are for autonomy for local municipalities when we are only getting to the point now of making those changes in the legislation.

I am sure there are other examples. I did not have a chance to research the Municipal Act, but I am sure the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), having thousands of civil servants, should be able to have someone go through the act and find all kinds of other examples where municipalities are denied their rightful autonomy and where these changes should be made in the future.

There is another thing I find difficult to understand. Between 1955 and 1973, no interest was paid by trust accounts at homes for the aged. The various homes for the aged across the province, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto which this bill deals with, had trust accounts and they were keeping the interest for themselves, for whatever purpose. I am sure there were very justifiable purposes, except that people had money in those accounts and the interest should have accrued to the individuals whose money it was, rather than going to the various homes for the aged.

I want to get on to another point. In dealing with Metropolitan Toronto, I think one of the areas in which we are lacking by not addressing, and which I wish this government would address, is the selection of the chairman. As the members know, the province is very jealous of the powers of the chairman. As a result, they prefer a chairman to be selected by the members of the regional council rather than being elected.

I am not for a moment suggesting that the chairman of the region, in this case Mr. Godfrey, his predecessors or his successors, whoever they will be, should run in an election at large, because it would be very difficult to try to get more than two million people to select the chairman of Metropolitan Toronto.

That would make the position extremely powerful, much more powerful than it is now, and it is fairly powerful now. It would be very difficult from a financial standpoint for a candidate to run at large in a Metropolitan Toronto election; it would be very expensive indeed. There is no other such campaign. Even the leadership race for the Tory party would be a pale duplicate of the money one would have to spend to be elected chairman of Metropolitan Toronto if the chairman were chosen at large.

What my colleagues and I have been suggesting for some time now is that the Metro chairman, who should be responsible to some people in Metropolitan Toronto, should run for election on a regular basis. It is now on a three-year basis. He should run in a ward or in his municipality. I am not suggesting that the mayor

of the municipality, each mayor of each of the six municipalities, is very busy and would not have time to run a municipality and be chairman of Metropolitan Toronto.

4:30 p.m.

I am suggesting the chairman of Metropolitan Toronto would have to run in a local ward in one of the municipalities and thereby be somewhat accountable to the local citizens. That might mean 50,000, 100,000 or 150,000 people. It certainly would not mean that he would have to account to two million people directly. It would mean he would have to go back on a regular basis and be elected. To that extent the position would be held more accountable. It would be more meaningful then, rather than having to lobby with 30, 35 or 40 people in Metro council.

The other point I want to raise has to do with the Robarts report of a few years ago. That dealt with the establishment of new boundaries for municipalities, direct election to council, moneys the provincial government should give to Metro council and a whole array of matters. It brings into question the seriousness of the government when it asks very honourable people to bring forth reports. After they are brought forth and suggestions are made, the government of the day sees fit only to put that report on a shelf never to look at it again.

Perhaps the only time it will look at it is at election time when it wants to dust off a few of the examples and say, "This is what we should look at after the election." Then they put it back on the shelf and do not do anything with it. That report cost over \$1 million. It goes to show the kind of regard this government has for the money of the taxpayers of Ontario. After a report is public they do not do anything with it.

I want to draw to everyone's attention that the minister is not here to deal with this legislation. I think on only one occasion in the last three or four years has the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing been in the House to deal with legislation. I am not for a moment suggesting the parliamentary assistant, the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg), is not capable of dealing with the legislation. However, one would think the government would ascribe greater importance and priority to such legislation by having the minister here sometimes to defend it. Yet time after time the minister is absent from the House for those purposes.

I have one other point: The 25 per cent limit on the participation of Metropolitan Toronto in the construction of storm and sanitary sewers is another example of the kind of limitation the

government has put on metropolitan and local councils over the years. We endorse the removal of this limit because it does give a small amount of added autonomy to the local municipalities, local being nonprovincial in this context.

We also endorse the other changes included in Bill 61. Therefore, we will support it on second and third readings.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to support the bill now before us. I cannot let it pass that this is another one of those occasions when the government hurries up and waits, and after it has waited a long period of time it then has to hurry up again. This is a bill that should have been through the Legislature last fall—

Mr. Stokes: Sort of herky-jerky.

Mr. Breagh: I will not go into who are the herks and the jerks, but we know who calls the bills on the Orders and Notices. We also know who is supposedly the government of Ontario—at least on some occasions it purports to be the government.

I have said on a number of other occasions that this bill is a little confusing. It deals with such things as how much they can charge for duplicating materials—15 cents a page. I share with a previous member some question as to why we are doing this by means of a provincial law. It does seem difficult to understand. It runs all the way from that to whether some place will be called a city, a town, a township or a concession; through speed limits, to something which is not printed in the bill but which is the reason I am prepared not only to support the bill this afternoon, but also to give unanimous consent to let the bill go on for third reading. In the middle of the bill is a little clause which does not appear to give, but which in fact does give, East York the ability to rectify a very serious problem.

As members will recall, last summer the beaches around Metro Toronto were closed because there was a pollution problem. I believe they have come to the point where they now have contracts ready to let by June 1. The specifics of this separation of storm and sanitary sewers have all been discussed. I understand the federal government has put a substantial amount of money aside for this problem.

There was a study of some major proportions by Metropolitan Toronto. The residents here in Metro were rather taken aback last summer that Metro beaches were polluted. In part, the problem was due to storm and sanitary sewer problems. In an ironic way, while we could look at this legislation as simply housekeeping, we should not forget that in the middle of what

appears to be housekeeping legislation is a solution to resolving a very serious pollution problem in Metro Toronto.

For those and a variety of other reasons, we are pleased to support Bill 61 on second reading. We are prepared to engage in unanimous consent to give it third reading this afternoon, so those contracts can be let by June 1 and a very serious problem in Metro can be resolved.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members for their co-operation in these matters and their comments on the bill. Maybe we move a little more slowly in some cases, such as the cost of cops and so on, but we do move at the request of municipalities and we hope we can satisfy most of the requests. I thank the members again for their co-operation on this bill.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

ONTARIO UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Rotenberg moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, second reading of Bill 59, An Act to amend the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of Bill 59 is to implement the 1984 unconditional grants policy announced in February 1984 by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) to the executive of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

All the details in the announcement were sent to each municipality in the province. They were given an estimate of the amount of grants they would receive, assuming this bill passes today. All that has been given to the municipalities, and they have already prepared their budgets based on the announcement by the minister in February.

In summary, this bill proposes: first, to replace population with households for purposes of calculating the general, density, police and resource equalization grants; second, to eliminate the differential in the grant rates for the police grant between local and regional municipalities, and third, to remove the guarantee that applied only to the resource equalization grant and to implement instead a revenue guarantee on the total unconditional grants received by a municipality.

4:40 p.m.

One of the most significant changes included in this bill is the use of households instead of population in the calculation of four of the grants. Until this year the general per capita grant, the

density per capita, the police per capita and the resource equalization grant used population as part of the grants formula. The change to households is desirable as household figures are available on an annual basis and therefore more easily updated than population data which are now prepared every three years. The change to households is supported by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Apart from the fact that households are more easily identifiable, it is felt they reflect service costing better than population and also provide a more stable measure than population.

Some municipalities, such as those with a high proportion of cottages, will benefit from this change. Beginning in 1984, cottages will qualify equally with other residential property for full grant payment. This change is desirable as more cottages are now being used on a year-round basis and necessarily require more servicing. Furthermore, the cottagers themselves are required to pay full property taxes, including the educational mill rate. It is only fair that we recognize them fully in calculating the grant.

Also, regional municipalities which currently provide policing receive a grant of \$17 per capita while nonregional municipalities receive \$12 per capita. This proposed change to \$47 per household will eliminate the difference in rates between regions and nonregions and will provide more funds to those nonregional municipalities now receiving a lower rate.

The rate differential has in the past been the subject of some criticism, and closing the gap is endorsed by the AMO. We are basing the per household grant on the \$17 per capita, not on the \$12 per capita, so nonregions, as I have indicated, will receive a considerable increase in the police grant.

The third major change proposed, the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act, is the introduction of a revenue guarantee on the total amount of grants received by the municipality under the six grants that make up the program. The new revenue guarantee addresses the municipality's concerns about year-to-year fluctuation and grant entitlement due to policy changes.

This year the revenue guarantee will mean that no municipality will receive less than a 2.5 per cent increase from 1983 and, furthermore, no municipality will have an adverse tax impact due to a change in policy. As I said earlier, this total guarantee replaces the one that applied last year only to resource equalization grants.

In summary, therefore, the proposals contained in this bill will further simplify the

unconditional grants program and increase the stability of grant revenues to municipalities. As I have indicated to the opposition critics and to the clerk, I have one minor technical amendment. After second reading I would ask that this bill be referred to committee of the whole House.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak to this particular bill. As members know, the unconditional grants the province gives to municipalities on an annual basis are determined every year around February and sometimes in March.

The fact is that the amount of grants is provided late in the year. I say "late" because there may be people who see February as an early time when municipalities can plan, but they have to understand that even the provincial government does not appreciate that municipalities start planning their budgets in late fall of the previous year. Before they have spent all the money for 1983, they are planning to see how much money they are going to have available in 1984. They try to plan their budgets and they often look to the province for some kind of leadership and some kind of signals as to the kind of moneys they are going to receive in the form of unconditional grants.

When the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing indicated last year that municipalities would receive at least what inflation was during the past year, municipalities felt they were going to get about five per cent of unconditional grants in order to tide them over for 1984, hoping that 1985 would be similar, because their costs are not going down. We have to recognize that the provincial government at a time of restraint is putting additional responsibilities on to municipalities.

Let me give members just one small example of that. Just a few weeks ago the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) presented his budget, in which he indicated most magnanimously that from now on senior citizens living in various municipalities in Ontario would not have to pay taxes on improvements to their homes if they spent \$5,000 or less. If one improved a home and spent up to \$5,000 in order to accommodate senior citizens or disabled people, one would not have to pay the additional taxes which would usually accrue to that property.

That is fine and dandy. I do not object to the principle at all. The only problem with that particular principle was that the province was not losing any money on it. The municipality was going to subsidize the change. Yet the Treasurer got up in the House and indicated, supported by

the applause of his back-benchers, that he was making this great change and was he not great as far as being the Treasurer of Ontario was concerned. It was not costing him one red cent to make the change. He had not consulted with the municipalities with respect to the change, yet he announced the change.

I do not want to be called out of order, but it is almost to the point of deception when one gets up in the House and makes that kind of statement, implying one is trying to do something for senior citizens when one is giving away somebody else's money.

Mr. Boudria: How about not being entirely truthful?

Mr. Epp: It is almost to the point of deception, but I would not call it deception because then the Speaker would call me out of order and ask me to withdraw it. I would have to withdraw it or leave the House. I would not be able to finish my speech and since I have worked on my speech, I would waste that time.

Mr. Breagh: The member is making it awfully attractive.

Mr. Epp: Thanks. I was thinking the same thing about the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) earlier, but I noticed he cut his speech short.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch—

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I was counting and I do not think we have a quorum.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

4:51 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: We have a quorum. The member for Waterloo North will please continue.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, the Treasurer takes this credit for things he really is not paying for and has no intention of paying for.

I want to deal for a moment with the increase in the per capita grant and the change to a household grant for policing purposes. As members know, my colleague the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) brought in a private member's bill a few years ago and a number of us from this side of the House have spoken continuously about inequities with respect to nonregional municipalities.

There was a particular incentive for regional municipalities, all except the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, whereby they would get \$17 on a per capita basis if they were to buy into regional government for policing purposes.

Although this was an unconditional grant, it was shown as being for policing purposes. But if a municipality did not buy the idea of going into regional government, or at least of having a regional police force, as Ottawa-Carleton did not, then the municipality was deprived of \$5 per capita.

We have continuously gone after the government on this matter and, finally, I guess we broke down its resistance to it. The government became embarrassed to the point where it had to make a change and it finally made a change such that all municipalities are now treated not on a per capita basis but on a household basis whereby each municipality get \$47 per household.

That is an improvement, but it certainly is not equal to the kinds of expenses that local municipalities have. It still leaves in question another very important principle, which is that, although the municipalities are paying the majority of the costs of policing, the province nevertheless still appoints the majority of members to local police commissions.

It is inequitable; it is not fair to local municipalities. But whoever accused this government of being fair to municipalities? Certainly, I never have. I would have to withdraw my remarks if I ever suggested to this House that the government is fair to municipalities because I would be misleading the House and I would not want to mislead the House by saying the government of Ontario is fair to the 835 or so municipalities of Ontario.

It is not fair as far as police commissions are concerned. If the government were fair, then since whoever pays the piper calls the tune, it should be the local municipalities that appoint the majority of members to the police commissions. As that is not the case, who would accuse this government of being fair?

The other point I want to raise has to do with the by-election we had not very long ago. I notice the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) is here. He was not here before the quorum call, so I welcome the quorum call because it brought him into the House. He will have a chance to speak to this, and I am sure he will want to set the record straight.

The record, as some members will know, is that the government wholeheartedly defended its unconditional grant policies to municipalities last fall during the time of the by-election. It said the status quo was great and the municipalities were far ahead in getting the grants from the province.

Shortly after winning the by-election, the government went ahead and changed the for-

mula. The municipalities did not get the grants they were promised, but that is another matter. The member was elected for the government, and that was what was important. It is not the perceptions which are left with the public; it is not the fact that one thing was said and another thing was done; it is the fact of whether or not the person is elected.

There is still another very important point here. It has to do with the new formula as far as taxation is concerned. The member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg), who is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, indicated cottages were now being put on an even footing for tax assessment and taxation.

Last Wednesday, as the chairman of a committee on tax assessment, I had the opportunity of being in North Bay. One of the problems constantly raised at that particular hearing was that some cottagers or people in rural areas—they were not all cottagers and I do not want to mislead the members because there are some permanent homes in there—were paying for hard services which they were not receiving.

For instance, they were not receiving water service, yet they were paying for it. They were paying for some form of fire protection, which is not necessarily a hard service, but they were getting very sparse fire protection. They were paying for garbage collection, yet they were not receiving garbage collection. They were paying for a number of things.

They told me that under the assessment rules of this province they could not get any breaks in their taxes for those kinds of services. I am wondering whether the parliamentary assistant could clarify for us this whole matter of assessment with respect to the cottagers and also the permanent residents.

The member for that area may want to speak to this later on to clarify the whole matter for us and to tell us those people were not telling me the truth. However, at the hearing they were saying they were paying for services for which they were not being reimbursed. They felt it was unfair.

The other point I want to raise has to do with revenue guarantee grants. In section 7 of Bill 59, the government has indicated that the municipalities will be provided with an annual revenue guarantee grant. I would ask the parliamentary assistant to indicate to this House what he means by an annual revenue guarantee grant.

How is that grant going to be established? What is the formula for the grant? When is the

money going to be given to the municipalities? These kinds of questions have to be answered. I hope he will be able to answer clearly those questions for us.

I want to get back to another point I raised earlier. With the bells ringing, I did not get back to it. It has to do with the planning of expenditures by the municipalities. As the members know, the municipalities start to plan in the fall. They were told only in February of this year what their unconditional grants were going to be. The grants amounted to a significant part of their budgets.

5 p.m.

I implore the parliamentary assistant to go back to the minister, whether he is in his cottage, his other home or wherever he might be, to indicate to him the frustration municipalities feel with respect to the planning process and the lateness of the province's announcement of what kind of grants they will receive.

As I indicated earlier, the municipalities were told they were going to get the grants of last year plus inflation. Then this year, all of a sudden, about half the municipalities received only 2.5 per cent increases in those grants. They had based their budget planning on the basis of last year's cost plus inflation. After drawing up their preliminary budgets, they had to go back to the drawing board and plan all over again.

In the midst of this planning, they had the special grants which the minister announced the day before the task force went to Hamilton. He announced that Hamilton-Wentworth region was going to get more than \$1 million, for which it is very grateful. The chairman of that region, Anne Jones, indicated to our task force that the region expects that next year those grants will be announced earlier and that in establishing next year's grants, the grants they received this year plus the special grants they received this year will be the base for establishing the grants for next year.

I hope the parliamentary assistant will be able to address that and will be able to tell us whether the special grants they received this year will be added to the ones they originally received and that will be the new base for the coming year. He would make the region of Hamilton-Wentworth very happy with that kind of announcement. If he cannot announce to us what that will be, it underscores the fact that the minister should be here carrying the bill, rather than the parliamentary assistant.

I hope the parliamentary assistant will bury my suspicions that he does not have all the answers

and will be able to tell us that is the new base for grants for next year.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, we are not going to support the bill. I want to give a couple of brief reasons why and then point out one slightly more positive thing we are going to attempt to do this afternoon.

The bill itself in many respects is an interesting study in how the government of Ontario goes about providing unconditional grants to municipalities. One of my first complaints about this approach to funding municipalities is that it means each and every year the municipalities sit around and wonder, for the better part of the year, exactly what they might get in the way of unconditional grants in Ontario.

The format is a very political one. It usually begins some time in August at the convention of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, usually down at the Royal York Hotel. Some time during the course of that convention, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing usually makes a speech, and somewhere in that speech he gives them a sweet, faint clue as to what the province might be doing in terms of unconditional grants or municipal financing for the year.

The clue is generally left there. It is not specific; it is kind of a hint that maybe moneys will be up or be down. For example, last year, I believe the clue consisted of the minister saying, "You should not anticipate any increase in funding next year." The next line was something to the effect that, "If you adopt that basis and it gives you more money, you will be happy; but you will not be disappointed at any rate."

After that bubbles on for a while, somewhere in the early part of the new year, usually in January or February, the minister will make some grand announcement about what the unconditional grants will be for that year. Later on, this will bubble through the municipal process so that by the time municipalities sit down in March, April or May to finalize budgets for the forthcoming fiscal year, they will have received a notice from the ministry as to what their grants will be.

I anticipate there are not a great many people in Ontario who are experts on municipal financing. Some of my other colleagues want to go into some of the deviant behaviour that is inherent in the way the province funds its municipalities or participates in that funding. However, I want to deal with a couple of what I consider to be major deficiencies in this process.

The first major deficiency is that many of us who are now members of the Legislature were on municipal councils in the 1970s, the early 1970s in particular. At that time, it was quite fashionable for the various and sundry lot of Treasurers of Ontario to travel somewhere in Canada and make commitments. For the most part, when they made financial commitments to municipalities, they made damned sure they got out of the province, to somewhere like Edmonton.

They tried to find a nice piece of neutral turf where they could make an announcement of some commitment that would resolve the long-standing problem in Ontario municipal finance of not knowing where the money is going to come from next year, of living hand to mouth, so to speak, from one year to the next, dependent on the whims of a Treasurer and a government that never really did take them into its confidence except in the most peripheral of ways.

From that time until now, in various forums and various places, various Treasurers have touted formulae, commitments, long-term planning strategies, new initiatives to "Go east" and to "Go west" and new developments for different parts of the province; but there never has been a commitment in writing to provide the municipalities in the province with long-term stability in terms of financing, not even in one portion of their funding.

As one goes through this year's budget, one sees the old chess game is at work here. In some ways, municipalities get a few more dollars. For example, in this act there is some improvement for some municipalities around police costs. That is not to say they will actually wind up with more money in their coffers, but in one form of the grant structure, more money will be distributed. That does not mean there will be an overall increase.

In other areas—roads, for example—there is a slight decrease in the budget. If there is anybody in Ontario who truly understands the system for funding municipal roads in Ontario, I would like to meet that person. There is a kind of framework of funding, there is a set of criteria laid out and there are road needs studies done, but in the end it seems to be some kind of crap game. If your number comes up, you get the money; if your number does not come up, you do not get the money. It is about as complicated as that.

The other thing in the bill I want to talk a little about on second reading is that this creates immense problems for municipalities. One of the main principles in Bill 59 is that there will be a change in the way in which funds are figured out.

We will move from a per capita basis to a per household basis. I note again that it is an interesting study in Ontario politics to go back over the history of how we got to this, what is going on here.

One finds that the minister created a discussion paper. Somehow, this discussion paper landed in the middle of the municipal organization in Ontario; it was discussed and dealt with by committees of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. I was at last year's AMO convention where there was a protest in my own municipality, among others. We bought little buttons and had a demonstration on the floor, which I thought was rather unique in the sense that municipal organizations in Ontario are not known to be violent revolutionary forces. To see an actual demonstration on the floor of AMO was really quite something.

They made their point, which was basically that in this crap game called restructuring, some municipalities will win, it is true, but other municipalities will lose. They got their own little set of numbers out. Some of our municipalities are now reasonably sophisticated in terms of designing projections around what these grants might be. We are beginning to understand how this metamorphosis opposite really works.

They put their numbers together and put them on the floor of the convention. While it is safe to say that they did not win the day, they did win the point that this process was going to harm some of the municipalities. So when his magnificent self rose in the Legislature last fall, he said, "Not to worry, boys, we will see that you do not lose money on this."

5:10 p.m.

In this year's announcement there was a one-time-only guaranteed revenue in unconditional grants for the municipalities: no one would get less than 2.5 per cent. It put some municipalities in a bit of an awkward position, because in a sense they had won a point in principle. There was not going to be a transfer of unconditional grants this year that would be in actual dollars less than last year, that is true.

However, it also produced a remarkable array of numbers to look at, all the way from a 2.5 per cent increase in some municipalities to a 12 per cent increase in others. It is difficult for me, in trying to follow those numbers as they move around, to understand why a place such as Oshawa gets 2.5 per cent while other municipalities that seem to me to be not poor—if I may use that term—such as Etobicoke, get closer to 10

per cent and 12 per cent. I have some difficulty in establishing just why that is.

Then around the edges came all the little sweeteners such as if a disaster hits a community, it will get more money.

If one studied Ontario politics again for a little while, one would see a pattern emerging here that emerges before every provincial election. The year prior to the provincial election, everything gets withdrawn. The government starts shaving a percentage point or two off the roads grants. It starts dropping things such as recreational program grants. It starts withdrawing funding for environmental things. That is just to put some money into an old sock.

Somewhere in the process of getting ready for the next provincial election, a great new program will be announced. When this program is announced, the province will then sock some money into new roads. There will be a sign with a trillium on it, just prior to the provincial election, saying the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program gave this new road. Or, if there is a pollution problem somewhere, the BILD program will put up a new pollution control centre. If there is a need for a new rink, baseball diamond or a speed skating oval, there will be a big sign out front saying the BILD program provided the funding. All of this will happen just prior to the provincial election.

I notice as I drive home these days that the BILD program—having spent three years providing me with a new road, for which we are all immensely grateful—is now going to provide me with an advanced light rail transit system from Pickering to Oshawa, for which we are immensely grateful.

I suppose one of the problems the government had to deal with was that the ALRT system does not come near Highway 401. One has to compromise one's principles. It cannot put the BILD sign in the middle of a field where it actually will be building. So the government of Ontario in its magnificence gives us a light rail transit system plunked down beside Highway 401; that is not where the transit system will go, not to worry, but the government is afraid few folks would notice if it was put on the actual site.

It is like in the old days in Ontario—and it still happens—when bridges were built in the middle of empty fields. Some citizens of Ontario have asked me why a government would build a bridge in the middle of an empty field. The answer is that the government some day will put roads up to the bridge and the public will actually be able to

use that bridge. However, it is not ready to provide that kind of funding.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I think the member is straying from the bill under debate.

Mr. Breagh: I do not think the Speaker is right on there. If he will listen just a little bit more, he will be quick like a bunny to see the connection between unconditional grants and funding to municipalities. It should not be too hard. I think he can pick that up.

We may even find parts of this province where roads are built in stages. We can tell an election is coming because out come the paving trucks. The gravel roads will end, the brand-new pavement will open up, and there will be a BILD sign telling us the government of Ontario gives us the road. "Me and the Premier brung you this cheque." It is an old technique, one that sadly seems to have worked far too often.

Mr. Stokes: Up north we get three names on the signs: Davis, Snow and Bernier.

Mr. Breagh: Big signs. At any rate, one of the continuing problems which is exacerbated by this bill is that it misses what I think most municipalities have said for some time needs to be done and what appears to me to be an extremely rational thing to do.

The government of Ontario, usually through the Ontario Municipal Board, says to most of its municipalities: "Now listen, we do not want you going month to month on this stuff. We do not want you establishing municipal financing on a year-to-year basis. We want to see five-year forecasts. We want to see five-year projections. We want to get you in a position where you can anticipate your capital costs over a five-year period. We want to see some knowledge that in your municipality, you can give us operational costs projected over a five-year period. We would like to see where your mill rates are going. We would like to see some computer runs about your assessment totals."

In many ways, Ontario has acknowledged that this should not be done on a hit-or-miss basis. There should be some direction and stability provided. Yet again this year, at the very best, the minister has said: "Hold the phone. We are not prepared to give you all the deep six at the same time. We are going to put a little guarantee in here that for the first year of this new program there will be no fewer dollars than you had in previous years. Even though the inflation rate is 5.2 per cent, 2.5 per cent will do; but you will not get fewer dollars than last year."

One has to look at budgets overall and at the other components of municipal financing to see whether that is true. I remain unconvinced that it is the case. In this bill, they have put a floor in this type of grant, but they have not given any projection on it. Frankly, I think they ought to.

When we go into committee, I will move an amendment which at least will start the discussion about providing municipalities, specifically in terms of unconditional grants, with a floor for a foreseeable period. I am using a five-year period, because traditionally that is what we have talked about. I am using a five per cent figure, which I suppose one could argue with and say that is inflation, the government's magic number or anything one wants.

From the point of view of most municipal councils, it can be an arbitrary floor on the basis, of course, that one takes it as a floor; it will be the guaranteed increment that will happen over a five-year period. At least municipal councils will know for a five-year period where they are going in terms of the grant structure.

If there are going to be changes, that approach certainly gives the minister a lot of latitude in changing other forms of grants to municipalities. It also gives him lots of latitude in saying, "That is the floor for unconditional grants. We may go higher if the inflation rate goes higher, or if the unemployment picture changes or for a variety of reasons. We might want to provide incentives to different municipalities."

My final objection to the bill now before us is simply that it ignores the problem. It ignores trying to inject a measure of stability into municipal finance at a time when it is getting to a critical level. Many municipalities have run very lean for four or five years.

Municipalities can make a dramatic difference in their budgets by simply saying: "We will not build this road this year; we will put it off until next year. We will not build a new arena." Most of our municipalities have done that. Their capital budgets, which were booming rather nicely through the late 1970s and into the early 1980s, have been ground to a halt.

Municipalities can do that. They have the ability to say: "We will stop a road program. We will slow down recreational programs. We will not engage in capital projects for a short period of time." However, they can let road systems or storm sewer systems deteriorate for only a set period of time, and then they run into another awkward problem: though they have saved money for a four- or five-year period, it may well

cost a lot of money to have let that deterioration happen.

In many municipalities there are many arguments about how serious that problem is. My own municipality, among others, always has somebody on the council who takes on the standards of service or the standards of construction provided for building new roads. Some members think they are too high, while others think they are too low. Nobody wants to spend a lot of money fixing potholes. The difficulty with this bill is that in large measure it misses addressing itself even to that problem.

5:20 p.m.

I appreciate that I am somewhat at odds with the official majority position of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, which is that the movement to a per household basis for unconditional grants is a good one. If I were looking at a government whose track record was that it had been slowly but surely building stability into the system and slowly, surely and consistently improving its support for municipal financing as well as substantially absorbing more costs for services that belong to a provincial government, I would look at this proposal and say: "Whether a per household basis is better or worse makes no difference. The government's track record tells me that it has consistently assumed its rightful responsibility over a period of time."

However, the problem is that over a period of time this government has worked very hard, very consistently, across the board, at shedding its responsibility. It has established a clear pattern in the last decade of wanting to establish new programs at the municipal level, both with councils and school boards, offering them sweeteners to get that program under way and then abandoning them. Not in the dead of night, but slowly, surely, point by point on a percentage basis, it has eroded its financial support for those programs.

The municipalities have to look constituents straight in the eye and say, "There is a provincial law that says we have to provide this kind of education for your kid in our school and our community, but we do not have the money." Or they are saying: "There is a provincial program that says there are going to be more day care spaces available, but there are 1,500 spots and 8,000 spots are required across the province, so we get 150 when our need is 300. We are sorry your child is not one who will win that draw."

That has been the problem. The track record of Ontario has at best been spotty in addressing itself to the whole field of municipal financing.

With regard to unconditional grants, it has been somewhat erratic in its disposition of meeting municipalities' needs.

It is true to say that from this government's point of view, it retains every advantage by having the minister make a casual announcement; by withholding that information until the last possible moment and then issuing it to the municipalities. It retains every advantage by saying, for example: "This year we are going to move. We are going to respond to a suggestion we ourselves generated at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. We are going to move from a per capita basis to a household basis."

It leaves the government with all the options. The government of Ontario not only maintains fiscal control, as the Treasurer alluded to in his budget presentation, it does not just hold on to the purse strings as far as municipal financing is concerned, but also it holds on to every conceivable option we can come up with. It retains the right to change the grant structure. It retains the right to move around the basis for the grant. It maintains the right to move all the other grants around. It maintains the right to tell municipalities, when it sees fit, what its financial commitment will be for the forthcoming fiscal year.

My argument is with the thrust of all that. My argument is really with the principle of this bill. If this government was interested in giving some financial stability for the foreseeable future to municipalities and school boards around Ontario, I would be on its side. If this government had a better track record with regard to providing a consistent growth pattern in municipal financing, I would say, "All right, let us try on a per household basis as opposed to a per capita basis."

What we know about that formula now is essentially from computer runs. It is a good guess that it will be a better system, but I already know that for some municipalities it will not be a better system.

Someone called me yesterday from one of our outlying municipalities and said, "There is a guarantee that we will not get less money this year, but what about next year?"

It occurs to me that although I have seen a couple of motherhood statements by the minister that they do not do bad things to municipalities, the truth is quite the opposite; they do. I have not seen any commitment past this year to provide a guaranteed amount of money that will not be less than last year.

If I were a municipality out there that was perhaps a little mollified now because the

announcement is in and they will not get fewer dollars than last year, I would be arguing pretty strenuously that it is 2.5 per cent when the inflation rate is more than five per cent. I would be going at that argument. Maybe I would have to soften it a bit because we have as many dollars in our hands this year from the province in unconditional grants as we had last year, or more.

I would be looking towards next year. I would want to know what happens if we have a January election, for example, before the minister gets his chance to make the big announcement. One might even be a little suspicious around the edges and say if that election were imminent, maybe the Treasurer would be saying to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing: "Just hold off on your announcement for a little while until we get this election over with. We might have a slightly different tune for you to sing to the municipalities."

Mr. Rotenberg: We cannot do it without Earl McEwen.

Mr. Breaugh: The member for Wilson Heights should not get into this debate. He always gets hurt when he enters into a debate here. He should just stay quiet.

Maybe there would be a different set of numbers put out.

I think what it really comes down to is that in principle this government, by its actions, has built a spotty track record. This government can argue that this proposal to change to a per household basis came from the municipal organizations. But I think it would have to admit in all honesty that it is just an argument—it is hardly an indisputable fact.

For example, I recall there was not a conclusive statement from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as of its last convention that it formally wanted to go to unconditional grants on a per household basis. I may be wrong in this but I seem to recall that would be a little beyond the pale. I think they fell far short of that mark. They had a committee which was still dealing with the matter. So I think one has to couch one's language, so to speak, to get to that position.

I am not an advocate of changing the basis for unconditional grants unless I am reasonably sure there is a reversal in the current trend in the entire approach towards municipal financing. I now think no changes should occur in municipal financing—not on the basis of unconditional grants nor in changes in assessment formulae, whether market value assessment or any other

variation of that—until we see at least a halt and probably a dramatic reversal in the trend in municipal financing. It is disappointing, to say the least.

That is why we are going to oppose this bill in principle on second reading. When it does go to committee, we are going to try on for size what I know a number of people in the ministry have tried for many years now. We will attempt to get them to talk about a long-term commitment on unconditional grants and then see what happens. Such a commitment would provide municipalities with a guaranteed floor for those unconditional grants. We look forward to an interesting discussion about that.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to participate in the debate on Bill 59, An Act to amend the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act. I would be remiss not to speak to this bill in view of the very serious financial difficulties that municipalities in my own riding are experiencing.

On April 16 of this year I raised in this Legislature with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the very sad state of municipal finance in the town of Hawkesbury in my riding. I am sure the parliamentary assistant, who is far more capable than the minister, will likely be able to answer it because the minister was not able to do much at that time—not that we expected much of him.

Interjection.

Mr. Boudria: It is true. I would not say the same about the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) but he is far better than the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I was just admiring the member's sense of humour.

Mr. Boudria: It is not a sense of humour; it happens to be a fact.

During question period that day I raised with the minister the prospect the town of Hawkesbury was facing—a loss of \$309,000 a year in municipal taxes as a result of the closure of the Canadian International Paper mill in that town. This is an enormous loss for a small town of 10,000 such as Hawkesbury; I am sure all members can appreciate just how serious that condition is. It could result in a tax increase there in the order of \$175 per household.

I understand the town has implemented severe budgetary cuts. They have brought down a bare bones type of budget this year and have managed

to reduce the tax increase to something less than the original prediction of \$175 per household.

5:30 p.m.

Another prospect the town faces is the possibility of having to raise water and sewage rates to the tune of 40 per cent because that one mill was such a large consumer of the services in the town that once it was removed as a proportional user of services, it added so much to everybody else that it created a severe financial burden.

Unfortunately, on the day I raised this issue, April 16, I got little in the way of an answer from the minister. The minister indicated that he and his officials were discussing the matter, that they have been discussing it for a year and so forth.

The town is also faced with a situation where the pumping station of the municipality is physically located at and belongs to the Canadian International Paper Co. It is right on its grounds. We are faced with the possibility that CIP may wish to demolish that structure this year or at some time in the future because it is now apparent it will not reopen the place. If that were the case, the town would need \$500,000 to buy that facility. Where is it supposed to get the money to do that? It has none and it cannot get anywhere with this government. It needs \$700,000 to recover from the loss of revenue this year and last year. It needs about \$500,000 to buy that facility.

The sewage system in that town is also in dire need of repair. According to municipal officials, the eastern end of the town is hooked up to a rather old sewage system by which it seems to be treating all the sewage, storm and sanitary, and it is wasting an awful lot of energy doing that. To replace defective lines, upgrade the system and separate the waters, they would need something in the order of another \$750,000. I will leave the members to do the addition for everything that is required by that municipality.

The only answer the minister came up with was that the town has a very nice mayor. That is good. We all know the mayor is a great guy and everybody agrees with that. In spite of the fact he has mentioned he may wish to run as a Conservative candidate in that riding, I still like him. He is a nice fellow.

I know the mayor wants to hear that he is a nice guy; everybody does, but what he wants more right now is assistance for the people of the town of Hawkesbury. That would be far more important than hearing the platitudes the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing states at times when municipalities are in difficulty.

It is my hope that the parliamentary assistant will be able to shed some light for us on the difficulties the town and the whole of the united counties of Prescott and Russell are experiencing.

I raised the fact that \$309,000 in municipal taxes were going to be lost because of the closure of that facility, but it does not stop there. One has to add the loss of revenue for the board of education, the separate school board and the united counties of Prescott and Russell. If one puts it all together, the loss of revenue because of the closure of that one plant is \$826,000.

We have people living at the other end of the county, 60 miles away out at the western end of the riding, who have never seen the CIP plant whose taxes are going up this year because that facility has shut down. The facility was that important with regard to the financial contribution it offered, not only to the town of Hawkesbury but to the united counties of Prescott and Russell as a whole.

In this bill, the parliamentary assistant, on behalf of the minister, is proposing there will be a revenue guarantee, but that guarantee for one year is not exactly what municipalities have in mind.

By offering municipalities two per cent or 2.5 per cent—is 2.5 per cent the figure?—in so far as a guaranteed increase is concerned, when the cost of living is going up by something in the order of 4.5 per cent or five per cent, we are not guaranteeing them an increase. That is a decrease in constant dollars. Everyone knows the expenditures of municipalities are rising faster than that rate.

Where does that leave Prescott and Russell? We have a reducing assessment base, grants that are increasing in an order less than actual expenditures, and an increased municipal welfare roll to the tune of 20 per cent, which has to be taken from the municipal taxpayers at the county level. We have all those at the same time as we have reduced assessment. How can we reduce the assessment, increase the tax load, increase the expenditures, increase the water rate, do all that and take it from the people in that municipality who have fewer dollars in their pockets to start with to pay their municipal taxes because so many of them are out of work in that area?

We need far more comprehensive measures than those we are hearing about from the government. In my view, we need substantial revenue guarantees, which would be guaranteed for a number of years to come, notwithstanding

that they could be greater. We are asking municipalities to forecast their expenditures for five years, while the government is offering them about five days' notice as to when they will get their municipal grants for the current year.

One gets to a point where one has to practice what one preaches a little bit more than this government is doing. It is fine for the government to come in with 20 minutes' notice and announce to this House it is buying Suncor for \$650 million that it does not have. Municipalities are more responsible than that. They need more time. They need to plan their expenditures better. They have to do that within a system that would at least forecast, for some period in the future, what municipalities will be offered.

Last fall we heard quite a bit about unconditional grants. In eastern Ontario it was quite a hot topic. The members will recall there was a by-election in eastern Ontario. I see the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is in his place in the House this afternoon.

Mr. McLean: He will be here for a long time too. He will be here longer than the member.

Mr. Boudria: I hear an utterance from the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean). He says the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will be here for a long time. That is quite possible, I suppose. Nothing is impossible in this world. Maybe he will be a good opposition member when we form the government after the next election. Who knows? I want the members to know we will treat his riding very fairly as a government, because Liberals are very fair-minded people.

I was discussing the subject of municipal grants, and how they were discussed in eastern Ontario last fall. As I was saying, we had a by-election. Prior to any by-election there is an election campaign. During that campaign we discussed the issue of unconditional grants. The Liberal candidate suggested the government was going to change the formula for unconditional grants. There was a violent reaction on the part of the government to this.

Let me read you a quote here by Dan Karon in the Ottawa Citizen: "The release of this document has been described as 'a scare tactic' by Noble Villeneuve, the Tory candidate," who said there would not be a change in the grant system.

Mr. Epp: Do you mean the member?

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: Yes. Maybe it is wrong. Maybe it is a misprint. Do the members want me to read it again?

Some hon. members: Yes.

Mr. Boudria: Maybe I will read a little further instead because we are not supposed to be repetitious and I know the Speaker would call me to order if I were.

Let me read from this newspaper. This is a speech that was made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It says, "On a visit to Chesterville Friday, Mr. Bennett also denied that there is a government policy to change the present method of determining provincial funding to municipalities."

Mr. Epp: Which Mr. Bennett?

Mr. Breagh: That cannot be right.

Mr. Boudria: I think this is Claude Bennett.

Mr. Breagh: Who is he?

Mr. Boudria: I think he is the member for Ottawa South who used to work here.

Mr. Breagh: What does he have to do with the municipal government?

Mr. Boudria: Let me quote: "Such statements are completely incorrect," he said."

Mr. Breagh: That has to be a misquote.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, it has to be a misquote. It was Mr. Bennett who was quoted as saying this. I will repeat it to the members again. "Such statements are completely incorrect," he said." "He" is Mr. Bennett. "There was no plan to change those grants." Is it not interesting that we see those grants changing? Is it not a coincidence they were not changed before December 15?

I leave the members to answer this question. Let us give this some thought. Do they think the grants would have been changed on December 14 or December 13?

Mr. Epp: This is 1884, not 1984.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Prescott-Russell has the floor.

Mr. Boudria: No. The grants would not have been changed on December 14. I am sure nobody would have contemplated doing that because, had the grants been changed on December 14, perhaps the electors from Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry would have felt that what the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing was telling them was not consistent with what was happening.

We must never be inconsistent prior to an election. According to this government, we must always do that very shortly after an election and a long time before the next election to leave a certain period of time for the electors to forget about the inconsistency.

Mr. Breagh: The body was not even cold yet, was it?

Mr. Boudria: Yes. Let me read from the Morrisburg Leader. There is a little article here by Louanne Munhall entitled, "Plan 'Only Discussion Paper.'" Let me quote again from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He said: "Any time the government changes a formula, and we deal with many, we never allow anyone to suffer. I assure you no municipalities will be hurt."

Mr. Speaker, if you were reeve or mayor of a municipality and were going to get seven, eight or 10 per cent under the old formula and you were now going to get 2.5 per cent under the new formula, would you agree you had not been hurt by the change in formula? I would suggest you might have a different view of how this formula affected you, were you or the parliamentary assistant or the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry or the minister sitting in the chair of a reeve today, looking at the possibility of that loss of revenue. Loss of revenue does hurt municipalities.

Mr. Stokes: I would say that was less than noble.

Mr. Breagh: You do not think you would say that?

Mr. Boudria: No, I will not comment. It is not my style. I would rather stick with the issue. I want to read a quote now from the Winchester Press.

Mr. Villeneuve: We know the member can read. He is doing a good job.

Mr. Boudria: I have to read because I have to remind the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry of all of this before he makes his contribution to this debate. I just want to make sure that everything is fresh in his mind so that when he speaks to this issue, we can all the better appreciate his comments. In that way everything will be fresh in our minds.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will not mind if I remind everybody of how unconditional grants affect us in eastern Ontario and what happened to unconditional grants last fall.

Mr. Epp: That is a good point. Speak until six o'clock and then he can get Instant Hansard.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Boudria: A good point. If I talk out the clock, then between six and eight the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry can get Instant Hansard and make his contribution at eight.

Mr. Breagh: They do not have any cartoons in Instant Hansard. He may have a problem.

Mr. Boudria: I do not know about that.

Mr. Rotenberg: The member has not yet said anything that needs commenting on.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Prescott-Russell is proceeding with the debate.

Mr. Boudria: They are being awfully provocative, but I am doing my best to control myself.

Mr. Villeneuve: Where were you during that by-election?

Mr. Boudria: I am glad the member asked that. I canvassed the towns of Crysler and Alexandria and I would like to remind him that those are the two communities we won.

Mr. Villeneuve: What about the other 100?

Mr. Boudria: Those are two communities I did door to door. I challenge the member to look at the results of Crysler and Alexandria.

I was beginning to quote from the Winchester Press. It was right before the election, and this article is entitled, "Final Stretch 'Requires Most Effort.'" On that day the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) was in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and I am going to read the article from the newspaper. It says: "Dr. Stephenson said that Liberal candidate John Whitteker's claim that the Ontario government is planning a change in the formula for unconditional grants to municipalities 'is plainly false.'"

The member for York Mills said that. It is not unbelievable that the member for York Mills would make a comment like that? She must be really disappointed. I will bet she is going to vote against this bill today because it is inconsistent with what she said. Of course, nobody would want to accuse the member for York Mills of stating falsehoods. Just to keep up the good reputation we on this side of the House know she has, we are sure that will vote against this bill.

Let me quote further: "'What he has produced by way of information is, in fact, quite untrue,' she said. 'It's unfortunate that he has sunk to that level this early in the campaign.'"

Mr. Ruston: Did she say he had a forked tongue or not?

Mr. Boudria: No, she did not say he had a forked tongue, but she is saying here that the Liberal candidate has, in her words, "sunk to that level this early in the campaign."

Mr. Breagh: Maybe she was just talking about Liberal candidates in general.

Mr. Boudria: Now, now. We were nice to you.

I have another clipping here. Again, this one is from the Winchester Press, headed "Parties

Clash Over Grants." This is about the member for York South—sorry, the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett). We would not want to confuse those two.

Mr. Breagh: The member for Ottawa South does not play the piano.

Mr. Boudria: That is right. The member for Ottawa South does not play the piano.

Let us hear what it says. "In his visit to Williamsburg last Friday, Mr. Bennett insisted this was not the government's intention," again talking about the change in grants. "'It's a fabrication,' he said."

Mr. Breagh: Do you mean it was a lie?

Mr. Boudria: Well, I do not know if he accuses Liberals of being liars here; that would be unparliamentary. It is a good thing the article does not say "lie"; it says "fabrication" to keep it parliamentary.

A further quote says, "'You haven't got an issue, so let's make one.'"

It is unusual that we have seen those newspaper clippings. They do not come from another planet; those newspaper clippings are from eastern Ontario, from all kinds of newspapers in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, in Ottawa and everywhere else, quotes from ministers of the crown, quotes from the Premier (Mr. Davis), quotes from a member of this Legislature now who was not a member then. At the same time as we see that, we see Bill 59 proposed in this Legislature.

We can only conclude that when this bill comes in the House, the member for Ottawa South who proposed the bill is going to have to vote against it himself. He said he would not do it and we believe the member for Ottawa South.

Mr. Breagh: If he had any sense of honour.

Mr. Boudria: If he had any sense of honour, he would vote against it. The member for York Mills would vote against this too and, of course, the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will vote against this bill.

Mr. Breagh: Or he could resign his seat.

Mr. Boudria: No, he would not resign his seat.

Mr. Breagh: He could cross the floor.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps he would cross the floor, but I am sure he will first want to put himself in a position tonight where he will not have to defend this bill.

I am sure he will stand up in his place and tell all the members that this legislation is inconsistent with the campaign of last fall, that the

legislation is totally inappropriate in view of the promises of the last campaign, and that he and the members of the executive council of the province who participated in that election campaign will vote against Bill 59, because the people of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry would not want to have a member who says one thing and votes differently.

We know the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is a very proud man and he will want to put the honour of the people of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry ahead of partisan legislation.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on this bill, not because I am an expert on municipal taxation, but because it does not address the problems facing resource-based, one-industry towns in northern Ontario.

The explanatory notes say of section 7 of the bill, "The section added provides for the payment of a revenue guarantee grant to municipalities where necessary to stabilize the total grants received under the act from year to year, except in respect of grants paid under section 5...for the purpose of limiting shifts in taxation caused by a change in the apportionment formula or equalization factors."

I want to bring to the attention of the parliamentary assistant the dilemma facing many communities in northern Ontario, but in particular those that are facing rapid expansion and are being placed in undue hardship as a result of acting as bedroom or dormitory communities for a work force that is located elsewhere, much as the case the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) mentioned with the CIP mill in his riding.

I want to quote from a letter as the basis of making my argument and my criticism of this bill. It is addressed to me and is signed by Silvio Cortolezzis who is the reeve of Manitouwadge, the largest town in my riding. He writes:

"I am writing to inform you that the township of Manitouwadge will soon be presenting the 1984 municipal tax requisition to industries, businesses and home owners within its jurisdiction.

"As you are well aware, the financial responsibilities associated with the rapid growth of the municipalities involved with the Hemlo gold discovery are enormous. The consequence is an increase in the 17 to 19 per cent range for the combined school/municipal levies for this year. Furthermore, we are projecting additional major increases in future years to meet the challenge of development.

"The taxation dilemma in Manitouwadge is really quite simple. It has long been our conviction that the formula used to generate municipal taxes from underground mining operations is unfair to our industry towns, especially in the context of Manitouwadge. Since we are a small municipality, we must share with others as partners in regional bodies such as the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, the Home for the Aged, the Lake Superior Board of Education, the North of Superior District Roman Catholic School Board and the Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay.

"When comparing our tax burden with sister municipalities within the same region, the case for assistance to the taxpayers of Manitouwadge becomes self-evident. At present, home owners in our town must pay the highest school taxes in northern Ontario, 55 per cent of the total residential levy. We are getting hurt on two fronts, local and regional.

"With respective assessment in excess of \$25 million placed on the James River property in Marathon and \$29 million on Kimberly-Clark in Terrace Bay, the residents of these two communities pay approximately 30 to 35 cents for each dollar needed for all purposes. In the case of Manitouwadge, the reverse applies. Home owners are asked to 'carry the guilt' to the tune of 65 per cent of the total raised. You see, Mr. Stokes, Noranda Mines Ltd. is assessed at \$6 million.

"The province provides a resource equalization grant of \$37,077 to compensate for loss of revenues. This payment is made in lieu of allowing us the right to tax underground wealth. Our figures indicate for a 10-year period the total grants received by the township of Manitouwadge increased by \$144,750, or only 39 per cent, while our costs have quadrupled during that time."

If we look at the estimated grants under the new formula, as witnessed by a document that was sent by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, dated April 18, 1984, it says:

"The estimate of grants for the year 1984 under the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act for lower-tier municipalities and for the municipality of Manitouwadge: The following 1984 estimated grants are on the information from the 1983 analysis of taxation and the 1983 estimates of fund revenue submitted by your municipality last year.

"As usual, the final calculation for the 1984 unconditional grants will be based on your audited 1983 financial information return and

will be completed in the fall. Please note that the provincial estimates below should not supersede your own 1984 grant estimates, as you may have been using more accurate information."

In the context of this bill, I want to tell members that for the largest municipality in my riding, faced with all the problems I have mentioned, acting as a dormitory community for a work force and industry that is located outside its boundaries, the resource equalization grant for 1984 is estimated to be \$37,077. That same resource equalization grant for last year, 1983, was \$191,647. For 1982 it was \$179,520 and for 1981 it was \$179,520.

We have smoke and mirrors here in as much as the resource equalization grant has been reduced

in one year from \$191,000 to \$37,000 and we have a one-time payment of a revenue guarantee of \$144,000. One must appreciate that Manitowadge, which is probably one of the two fastest-growing communities in Ontario, based on that new-found wealth valued at between \$10 billion and \$12 billion on the gold that is being identified by three mining companies, namely, Noranda Mines Ltd., Long Lac Minerals Ltd. and Teck Corp.—

The Deputy Speaker: I wonder if this might be an appropriate point for the member to end his remarks.

Mr. Stokes: All right. Suits me.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
52	1825	2	55	—I think they called themselves the Canadian Corn Association—to represent hybrid grow-
52	1826	1	2	that were the late Darryl Jubenville, whom I

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No. 56

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, May 29, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 29, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ONTARIO UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 59, An Act to amend the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, when we recessed for the dinner hour, I was attempting to bring to the attention of the House, and particularly to the attention of the parliamentary assistant, the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg), the inequities of the existing tax system and the fact that this unconditional grants bill does little or nothing to address the very serious problems faced by one-industry towns based on nonrenewable resources in northern Ontario.

Not only is the grant system inequitable, unfair, unpredictable and unreliable, we also have many communities in the north—I used Manitouwadge as an example, but there are others—where the work force is bedroomed or domiciled but is employed elsewhere, beyond the boundaries of those municipalities. The bedroom municipalities are charged with the responsibility of providing education, water, sewers, streets, lighting, police protection, garbage collection, snow removal—all the services that are the responsibility of local government.

One might ask: "What is so unusual about that? That happens all over Ontario." The Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory), who is mumbling over there, will know that in his responsibility for assessment right across the province, municipalities do not have the right or the privilege to tax plants, whether they be pulp and paper mills, mines or any other industrial endeavour, outside the recognized confines of those municipalities.

I raised this with our colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) during his estimates last fall and suggested smoothing the system out and making it more equitable. One has a brand new resource representing new wealth of the magnitude of \$10 billion to \$12 billion and counting, and the level of government that is forced to pay and provide those services is the one level of government that lacks the

opportunity to tax that new wealth. That new wealth goes to the two senior levels of government—the federal government and the provincial government.

When I raised this with the Minister of Northern Affairs, I suggested that we set up a heritage fund, a tomorrow fund or a resources fund to assist these bedroom communities over the rough parts until they get established and can pay for the services that are required by a work force that is located elsewhere.

The minister's response was, "We do not need a heritage fund, a tomorrow fund or a resources fund as long as we have the Ministry of Northern Affairs." I found that curious because, when we were discussing it, his budget was reduced by something in the order of \$20 million at a time when these communities were being faced with the prospect of spending literally tens of millions of dollars to provide those services. He said, "We did it for Detour Lake, we did it for Minaki Lodge and, if need be, we can do it for Hemlo."

I had occasion to write to the minister on March 29 as follows:

"You indicate that the only form of help for such purposes is through generous unconditional and conditional grants from the province. I am sure you will appreciate the additional pressure that dormitory communities like Manitouwadge and Marathon are subjected to in their responsibility for providing infrastructure and self-services for the work force of Noranda Mines, Lac Minerals and Teck Corona at Hemlo. Since these communities are being forced to provide serviced lots for residential, commercial and light industrial development, they will be hard pressed to recover costs for water, sewer and streets and all other infrastructure services on a user-pay principle.

"These projects will require interim or bridge financing until the municipalities are able to recover costs for these services as well as borrowing for debenture costs. These charges will be borne by existing taxpayers until the new arrivals are in a position to make their contribution.

"The part of this whole equation that I find most worrisome is the fact that this new mining venture has identified a gold-bearing ore body in

excess of \$10 billion and the communities of Marathon and Manitouwadge have no taxing authority beyond their own boundaries. You will be aware that this deposit is roughly 30 miles from these communities, and the federal and provincial governments will be the major beneficiaries of the creation of this new wealth, while the municipal governments are charged with the responsibility for providing the services.

"Prior to the introduction of the resource equalization grant, we had in place what were called mining revenue payments, which were paid by the province to municipalities that were bedrooms for a work force employed elsewhere, beyond their boundaries. The Honourable Darcy McKeough, I believe, or his predecessor, the Honourable Charles MacNaughton, was responsible for wiping out those mining revenue payments, which identified a particular stress on individual municipalities that were forced to provide accommodation for a work force employed in an industry that was located elsewhere. The mining revenue payments were replaced by the resource equalization grant."

8:10 p.m.

Before dinner, I quoted figures, and I am not going to regurgitate them, to show the effect of the resource equalization grant on municipal financing, particularly in the case of Manitouwadge. The grant went from something like \$199,000 last year to something like \$37,000 this year, and the government has supplemented it with a very nebulous, unassured supply of funding from this level of government, which has the ability to tax the resource that the municipality does not have.

I am not going to bore the House with all the other things I said to our colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs, but I will quote briefly from my letter:

"The value of Ontario's metallic mineral production in 1983 is estimated to have a value of \$2.67 billion. On a regional basis the value of all minerals produced in 1982 was as follows: for Algoma riding, \$623.7 million; for Cochrane, \$679.3 million; Kenora, \$185.7 million; Nipissing, \$49.7 million; Thunder Bay, \$172.8 million; Timiskaming, \$136.2 million, and Sudbury, \$723.8 million. Ontario's projected mining profits tax for fiscal year 1983-84 was in the order of \$35 million."

I went on to quote to him what benefits there were to the economy of Ontario and Canada as a result of the exploitation—I hope the orderly exploitation—of our forestry wealth. Those figures too are quite impressive: for logging, \$717.9

million; wood industries, \$1.42 billion; paper and allied products, \$5.12 billion. That gives the members some idea of the number of dollars we are talking about in the resource sector that we in northern Ontario collectively produce for the economy and for the coffers of this province and of the federal government, without any direct ability to tax the resources or the new wealth at the local level.

In the case of bedroom communities—and there is more than Manitouwadge around; Geraldton, Nipigon and Atikokan are other examples—a number of them domicile a work force that is located elsewhere. One would have hoped that when the government was drafting Bill 59, An Act to amend the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act, it would have taken that into consideration.

The member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) will know of all the new wealth that is created for the pulp and paper mills and sawmills in the city of Thunder Bay by a work force and resource located elsewhere. We do not deny that to the city of Thunder Bay. That is the way the system works. Bully for Thunder Bay, the capital of northwestern Ontario. We fail to realize, however, that the people who create that new wealth are domiciled somewhere other than where the taxes are levied. That creates the imbalance in reverse about which I am complaining. That is not addressed in this bill.

I had some discussion in the hall last Thursday with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett). He agreed it was an inequitable situation and perhaps it would be worth while for us to sit down and talk about it.

While flying to Thunder Bay on Friday morning, I had the pleasure of discussing it with a chap by the name of Ken Bauman in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He did his teething in that ministry up in Thunder Bay, and he knows very well what the problems are because we had the same difficulties in Ignace, which happens to be the bedroom community for a good deal of the work force for Great Lakes Forest Products and for Mattabi Mines, which is some 47 miles away to the north on Highway 599, up on the shores of Sturgeon Lake. There were some adjustments, but not enough to make the difference.

To go back again to when we had the mining revenue payments, which were supplanted by the resource equalization grants—which really are not that at all when one considers the formula that I read out to the members before the dinner hour as it affects a bedroom community like Mani-

touwadge—this bill, or the annual bill that comes in, does not address those very basic and fundamental problems of assisting us, the hewers of wood and the drawers of water, who are responsible for creating all this new wealth.

That is the geography, that is the nature of this province. We do not begrudge the fact that we create all this new wealth. What we are asking the people down here who bring in legislation such as this is how often we have to come complaining on behalf of northern municipalities, which are the only level of government that can provide all these essential services, services that people take for granted down here in the south.

We create all this new wealth, and we are forced to provide all the services in these small, one-industry towns in the north, but the federal and provincial governments get the benefit. One would hope that those inequities and injustices would be redressed as a result of a bill such as Bill 59. The government has played around the periphery of the problem, but it has never come to grips with the real, basic and fundamental inequities within the tax system. One can talk about resource equalization grants, general support grants, northern special support grants, per household general grants or revenue guarantee grants; the bottom line is still the same.

In the case of the community I use for purposes of making my argument, over the past several years the increase in all the grants I have just mentioned has been something in the order of 39 per cent, whereas the cost in the municipality for education and all other services has gone up by 400 per cent. In Manitouwadge, each home owner pays \$652 in education taxes alone; 55 per cent of the total levy in that municipality goes for education, and we wonder why they are under supervision, albeit voluntary supervision, by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

8:20 p.m.

This injustice has gone on far too long. Bill 59 does not address it, and I hope the parliamentary assistant will help me in getting his minister, the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Minister of Northern Affairs together. On behalf of the Manitouwadges of the north, we should bring in a tax system that reflects the high cost of taxation for the residential taxpayer and the industrial taxpayer while others get off scot-free.

I can visualize a battle right now by Kimberly-Clark of Canada Ltd., a very heavy taxpayer in Terrace Bay, and by James River Corp. which just bought a mill in Marathon. They are paying

their way and more, as are most of the residential taxpayers. However, we get three of the richest mining companies in Canada—Noranda Mines Ltd., Lac Minerals Ltd. and Teck Corp.—getting a free ride while we provide the services for their work force. That is just not good enough.

We are going to propose an amendment to this bill. The amendment to be proposed by my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) will not redress this thing because it is far too complicated. However, it will be better than the government bringing in this kind of bill, playing around the periphery. That is not going to solve the basic and fundamental problem of the sharing of tax wealth in Ontario.

I am very disappointed the government would have brought in a bill like this. There is still time for the minister to sit down with his colleagues to come up with an amendment which would address this very urgent need facing dormitory and bedroom communities in northern Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I mean no disrespect to the member for Wilson Heights when I say I regret that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is not carrying this legislation. The member has heard this on more than one occasion. However, I really fail to understand how the minister can propose these various bills and then not show up in the Legislature to defend them. It has never happened before; it really does not make any sense.

If the Premier cannot bring himself to take the member for Wilson Heights into the cabinet, then I really do not see why he should leave him way down at the end of the row—way out in Coventry or whatever the proper name is. He is just one shot ahead of the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen). By the way, where is the member for Frontenac-Addington?

For the paltry few pennies extra which the member gets above the poor, long-suffering back-benchers, it does not seem right that he should have to carry this pusillanimous legislation month after month. That is really indefensible.

The first time we even heard of the principle of this bill was in the famous by-election of—what was that place?

An hon. member: Stormont?

Mr. Rotenberg: It was the one the Liberals lost, remember?

Mr. Nixon: Yes, I know. Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. Through diligent and careful research, we were able to determine that this legislation was caught in the cobwebs of the minister's brain. In fact, it was going to come

forward in this Legislature and would seriously change the grants payable to a number of municipalities, particularly in eastern Ontario.

We felt it was our duty to bring this heinous plot to the attention of the electors in eastern Ontario. The Premier got so worried, so exercised, that he went down there, practically door-to-door, putting his reputation on the line, saying the Liberals were lying—

Mr. Rotenberg: The Premier was right.

Mr. Nixon: I did not say this; I am simply quoting what was said down in eastern Ontario. He said the Liberals did not know anything about these changes in the grants and that all they had to do was trust the good old member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve), and through him, the Premier and all would be well.

The Clerk is advising the Speaker about the word "pusillanimous" and I may be in trouble. The point is it really makes my faith in democracy and my faith in the good sense of the fine electorate down in that part of eastern Ontario with the three-handled name waiver, because it turns out that we were entirely right and were not misleading the electorate. It turns out it was the Premier who was dead wrong. All the money he pumped into the ads in the weeklies in all those great towns and villages down there had a good effect from his point of view.

I have no objection to the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. He is here, he won and God help us, he may win again. Who knows? I am not predicting that.

I felt we ought to bring to the attention of the whole world listening to this debate that this bill had its origins back in that by-election. The fact the Tories won a seat they had not lost since the great religious wars of 1892, or something like that, does not mean the people of eastern Ontario have passed judgement and given their approval to this sort of legislation, because it is going to cost them money.

One of the things that deeply concerns me, and why I regret the minister is not here, is that he and his parliamentary assistant preside over the worst mishmash of regulations and statutes. Talk about a dog's breakfast—it is a mess.

This has grown up over 40 long years, since the last time there was any sort of coherent approach to encouraging the municipalities to bring forward the sorts of programs they could fund with the moneys available to them under the whole concept of local autonomy. Since that tragic day in August 1943, with what was then a partnership with the municipalities recognizing their autonomy under the Municipal Act of this

province and its related acts, we have got into a most complex tangle of bureaucratic red tape that nobody, except a very select group of university students, can possibly wade through. This is changing it even more.

Speaking of a university tangle, I thought I should point out to the drafters that in their explanatory notes, three lines from the bottom, they have a split infinitive. That is going to be very offensive to the clerks of the various municipalities who have to try to understand this mumbo-jumbo. Imagine them saying, "...The Regional Municipality of Peel to instead credit its constituent area municipalities..." The whole thing is practically incomprehensible anyway. One has to resort to a grammatical parsing to make it even comprehensible for this debate.

We look at the various grants that have grown up over the years. My friend from northern Ontario listed a few of them; the revenue guarantee, the density grants, the grants that used to be per capita and now are per household, the divisions in the payments to upper tier, regional municipalities and counties as opposed to lower tier municipalities and improvement districts.

The complexity is really unbelievable. When one adds the requirement that at the local level, we must apply an apportionment formula or an equalization factor, we come to the crux of one of the more serious inequities that has established itself over the last decade in many of the municipalities in southwestern Ontario. All we have to do is lard on top of that market value reassessment under the special section 63, formerly section 86.

The whole problem of trying to assist in the financing of municipalities has gone beyond the complexities of too much government and has practically got to the point of a joke.

8:30 p.m.

Many of the members opposite and on this side have had valuable experience at the municipal level. Many of those people know how difficult it is to explain to themselves, to their colleagues on municipal councils and to their ratepayers, to what extent Ontario has evolved this elaborate procedure for granting assistance to the municipalities.

If there was ever a reason for changing the government in Ontario, this bill and all its predecessors—this is just a small part of the mélange—is a good reason. Ministers have simply added to this complexity, year after year over these 40 years, as they have moved through the Municipal Affairs' chair on their way up or down. The Minister of Revenue knows full well

that with the responsibility for assessment, his people have simply added to the confusion.

It is very difficult to vote for legislation like this. The only saving grace is that the bottom line is that more assistance is provided in many municipalities. It is very difficult to vote against the generous hand of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) as he finally decides to dole out a few more dollars to selected municipalities and to take it away from others.

It is really a shame that we, as members of this House with substantial municipal backgrounds, cannot get ourselves together and come up with a system of municipal grants that recognizes the need for a new partnership with the municipalities based on local autonomy. It should be based on a commitment over a five-year period so the municipalities know what they are going to get from the government of the province. They should not have to depend upon the Treasurer's whim or the political activists who are holding a wet finger to the wind to wonder when the next provincial election is coming along. I have come to the point where I do not believe the Premier gives a darn about it.

I suppose the municipalities look to the future and trim their sails, depending on this famous Progressive Conservative wind. I feel the time for a new partnership is long since past. I regret this bill just adds a few more patches to an already terribly confused grant system in the province.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I did not want to disturb the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) but I noticed you checking the list of prescribed names and terms in the book. Is "pusillanimous" in that list?

Mr. Speaker: If I may, with the indulgence of the House, I was interested, not in its propriety, but rather in its meaning. I have here the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. "Pusillanimous" means lacking in courage and strength of mind, faint-hearted, mean-spirited and cowardly. I do not think there is anything unparliamentary in that.

Mr. Breagh: Sounds accurate to me.

Mr. Speaker: Maybe that is going too far. I am not sure.

Mr. Breagh: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I am sure members would like to join me in welcoming the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) who has taken his rightful place in the public gallery this evening, proving there is hope for the member for Frontenac-Addington yet.

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to address Bill 59. It is interesting to note the members on the other side remember December 15. It was a memorable day for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. Regardless of what is being said by the members for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria), Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) or Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, the truth of the matter is the by-election was called and I became a candidate, along with several other people from other parties.

It was a rather humdrum situation until all of a sudden the candidate representing the Liberal Party decided to throw a little bit of excitement into the situation and the words "unconditional grants" came up. Unconditional grants—

Mr. Harris: He spoke with a forked tongue.

Mr. Villeneuve: No, I believe the candidate running against me did not speak with a forked tongue. I think he was being fed some information which may have sounded that way. However, I do not believe the man himself spoke with a forked tongue.

The truth of the matter was the member for Prescott-Russell referred to many newspaper clippings which he read very well. However, as it turns out, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing was down on several occasions. He made a statement to the effect there would indeed be no losers. There would indeed be no losers, I repeat. As it turns out, some of the literature that came in the newspapers—I notice members from the Liberal side neglected to mention their correspondence and information—stated a number of losing municipalities would have 20 per cent and 30 per cent less funding from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing than had been the case in the past. That, as we all know, did not occur.

A number of municipalities in my riding got a 2.5 per cent increase. A number got more. No one talks about those that got more, but they got at least 2.5 per cent. There were no losers. Indeed, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing was acting on and at the request of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. The AMO had suggested that the per capita grant was not good.

The city of Cornwall is a prime example. To this day we do not know how many souls live in the city of Cornwall. It was a real kettle of fish. Therefore, the number of residential units is really the logical course to follow. Some municipalities do that and are recognized to a greater degree than others.

However, that is the truth of the matter and I guess I can understand why the members from the opposite side of the House neglected to mention those figures when they said how many losers there would be. There were no losers. There were small increases. There were no losers.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other members wishing to participate? If not, the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, in some ways it was a good thing we went out to dinner before this bill was completed, because the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk was not here this afternoon. As usual—

Mr. Nixon: Oh yes I was and what is more, Vernon Singer will get you.

Mr. Rotenberg: We got him first. As usual, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk can pick up any bill and give what sounds like a credible speech. Whether his facts are correct or not does not really matter.

Mr. Nixon: What do you mean “sounds like”?

Mr. Breagh: Which is more than can be said for the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Rotenberg: It is kind of funny that whenever we have a municipal bill, the people across the aisle wonder why I am carrying the bill and not the minister. I really appreciate the fact the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and others are very complimentary towards me, but they somehow or other do not give credit to the minister who far more than I, is the author of these bills. He has the prime responsibility.

The members opposite, especially the Liberals, cannot seem to grasp or understand—because of the way they operate—that we operate as a team over here. Over here we share responsibilities and work together. I have a job to do, which I do happily. I have my share of responsibilities within the ministry and I accept those responsibilities happily. The minister has many other responsibilities and many other duties which he does very well. In my job and my role as parliamentary assistant, I am very pleased to assume some of the ministerial responsibilities.

8:40 p.m.

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk makes little jokes about where I sit, one seat over from where I might be. It is his jealousy oozing out because he is never going to make it to this side of the House. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk almost made in 1975. He scared the living you-know-what out of us in the 1975

election, and the great reward he got for coming so close to being the government was that his party dumped him as leader and it has never had one since who could hold a candle to him.

I deem it an honour to be able to carry legislation for the government. Something the members opposite cannot understand is that here we work together, we trust each other and we happily share our responsibilities and our duties. As such, I do my job and I am proud and happy to do it.

The member for Waterloo North said, and I think I am quoting him accurately, “The municipalities did not get the grants they were promised.” In order to be totally parliamentary, I will say simply that the statement by the member for Waterloo North is just not in accordance with the facts. I am sure that is parliamentary.

The minister and the Treasurer said the total amount of the grants, not the amount for each municipality but the total to municipalities in 1984, would increase by approximately five per cent. Not only have we fulfilled that promise, we have gone beyond it. The increase this year was 5.4 per cent in total.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, otherwise known as a point of truth: I wish the member for Wilson Heights, the parliamentary assistant, would indicate when the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing indicated to about 400 or 500 municipalities they would get no more than 2.5 per cent in excess of their unconditional grants of 1983.

Mr. Speaker: Having listened very attentively to the member for Waterloo North, I must tell him what he must already know. That is not a point of order, and I respectfully suggest that the member for Wilson Heights carry on with the bill.

Mr. Rotenberg: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is what I am trying to do, but obviously the members opposite are a little afraid of what I am going to say since they keep interrupting me.

Interjections.

Mr. Rotenberg: At no time did the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing or the Treasurer indicate that every municipality in the province would get an increase of five per cent in grants. He did say very clearly the average would be five per cent, and the average turned out to be 5.4 per cent.

He also said—

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure what the minister said has anything to do with the bill.

Mr. Rotenberg: I am responding to some of the comments that were made when one of your deputies was in the chair this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: If you are, then those comments had nothing to do with the bill.

Mr. Rotenberg: In outlining what would be in this bill in previous months, the minister said no municipality would suffer, no municipality would get smaller grants in 1984 than it got in 1983. The minister has gone beyond that in his announcement in February in this bill by making sure every municipality would get not only as much as last year but at least 2.5 per cent more than last year.

Some reference was made by several members opposite to the by-election in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. My colleague the member for that riding certainly set the record straight on that. Some candidates in that election did try to imply to the public in the riding that certain things would happen. They are not going to happen. The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is correct in that the candidate there did not speak with forked tongue. That is correct. Unfortunately, the candidate in that riding—

Mr. Boudria: Whose quotes are these?

Mr. Rotenberg: —was given information which was not correct. He took it in good faith from some other people and used information which was not correct.

Mr. Boudria: Is the parliamentary assistant saying the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing did not tell the truth or that the Premier did not tell the truth?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Wilson Heights has the floor and is responding.

Mr. Rotenberg: I would conclude this part of my remarks by simply indicating that the minister, the Premier and our candidate in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry laid it out as it was then and as it is now and they have been totally consistent.

Interjections.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, if I may continue—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. With all due respect to all honourable members, earlier in the debate we listened to references to ridings, by-elections and all that, but let us for once remember what we are here to do. Time is precious. There is nothing corny about it. It should make sense to all honourable members that we should return to the principle of second reading of the bill.

Would the parliamentary assistant proceed and would all other honourable members refrain from the silly interjections.

Mr. Rotenberg: The member for Waterloo North asked about the principle of section 8a of the act as set forth in section 7 of the bill, about the annual guarantees. That is in the bill. It says, in effect, as I think we all understand, that each year the government and the ministry will give to each municipality, no matter what the formula says, a guarantee of the floor amount it will receive for 1984. It is a minimum 2.5 per cent increase and it may vary from time to time as years go by, depending on the overall budget of this province.

A number of the members opposite have complained about the timing of the schedule coming out, which was announced to the municipalities in February. It is difficult for our ministry to do it any earlier because it is not until about February that we know exactly how much money the Treasurer has allotted to the ministry and how much we can allocate. We do that as soon as we can in consultation with the 850-odd municipalities in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Contrast that with the way the federal government deals with the grants it gives to the provinces under the established programs financing. It does it totally without consultation; it changes the rules of the game in the middle; and it gives us less every year, which is something we do not do to the municipalities. Yet the people who support the federal government in this House criticize us for doing a much better job than their cousins do in Ottawa.

The member for Waterloo North also asked about the special grants and wanted to know if the special grants would be included in the guarantees. Special grants are special grants to deal with special and specific situations. They are usually one-time or maybe two-time grants and they are given over and above the guarantees and all the other formulae in case a special situation arises from time to time.

The member for Prescott-Russell brought up Hawkesbury and told us all about its problems. The member did not tell the House that Hawkesbury has received some very special consideration. Under section 8a., or the clause of the previous bill, Hawkesbury received a special \$21,000 grant for high unemployment, which a number of municipalities received. In 1983, because of the plant closing, Hawkesbury also received a very special grant of \$251,000, only

half of which could be spent in 1983 and half in 1984.

8:50 p.m.

The mayor of Hawkesbury has come to the ministry and said, "That was great, but there seems to have been some underestimation of the amount that Hawkesbury has suffered." The mayor of Hawkesbury will be in to see the minister within the next several weeks. Although I cannot at this stage make any announcement or give any promises, it is my understanding that the mayor of Hawkesbury will be very well treated by the minister, the ministry and the Treasurer. Hawkesbury, because it had a severe economic problem owing to the plant closing, has been and will be well looked after by this government.

Mr. Boudria: It is about time, but thanks anyway.

Mr. Rotenberg: The member for Oshawa, who certainly does not have a forked tongue but does from time to time put his tongue in his cheek, is talking about long-term guarantees. He has an amendment before us that we will consider later. It just is not possible for this government, or any government, to give long-term guarantees. The government cannot give them to municipalities and it does not give long-term guarantees to any of its ministries. It depends from year to year on how much revenue we raise, the economic situation and the overall priorities of the people of Ontario.

I understand the situation at least as well as the member for Oshawa and the others who have criticized us.

Mr. Breough: I won't stand for that kind of slander.

Mr. Rotenberg: I actually understand it better than the member, but I was not going to slander him.

I spent three years as what was called the budget chief of the largest municipality in this province doing the budget of the city of Toronto. I negotiated with the then Treasurer of Ontario and found the province to be very fair and very understanding. I say this as much from my municipal responsibilities as my provincial responsibilities; the government has been fair to all municipalities.

With regard to this business of having to have the announcements six or eight months before preparing the budget, the amount of total grants does not and will not vary that much. It is very predictable within one or two percentage points how much they are going to get each year. Every municipality knows even now within a couple of

percentage points what they are going to get next year. It is only that slight variable which the later announcement is about. The government's track record is excellent in this.

The member for Oshawa said if he could find out that the government had a good track record, he would support this bill. The unconditional grants have been increased every year for the past 10 years. The year 1974-75 was the highest with 44 per cent—14-10, 16-10, 5-11, 10-9. In 1983-84, the preliminary announcement was 4.3 per cent and we came across with 4.6 per cent. This year the preliminary announcement was five per cent and we have come up with 5.2 per cent.

I think the municipalities and the assessment committee of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario are quite satisfied with the way we negotiate. I could not say they are totally happy; everybody wants more. They have the utmost confidence in this minister, in this ministry and in this government that they will be treated fairly each year because they have been in the past.

The member for Oshawa mentioned the changes in the system. As my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry indicated, these changes were made not only in consultation with AMO, but also at the request of AMO and with a long series of happy consultations with them. We work with them and we work well with them. As the member for Oshawa says, any change in the system brings us some winners and some losers. That is correct, except the winners get what the formula gives them and we shield the losers by guaranteeing them no loss whatsoever and at least a 2.5-per cent increase.

Lastly, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) very parochially talked about a problem as if it only happened in the north. With respect, the same problem happens in every dormitory suburb of every industrial town. It happens around Metropolitan Toronto, it happens to the towns around Oshawa and it happens to towns around Hamilton where industry is concentrated in one location and where dormitory suburbs are built in other municipalities. That is the problem the member for Lake Nipigon has as well.

The solution we had previously was—dare I mention the word?—regional government. I do not think the member for Lake Nipigon would like a regional government in his area.

We brought in resource equalization grants to replace the mining grants and that worked very well. Also, as the member knows, as we did for Hawkesbury, where a municipality has a specific problem, the government does come across with extra money.

The member mentioned, and I wanted to send him over a crying towel, that the poor people in his riding have to spend \$652 a year for education taxes. The majority of people in Metropolitan Toronto would be delighted to pay that little in education taxes. Many of us here pay a lot more than \$600 a year in education taxes.

Having taken about three per cent of the time the opposition took in their criticism of the bill, I would conclude by indicating that this bill makes progress in unconditional grants. I can remember over the past several years the opposition members, and even some of the members on this side, indicating that the uneven police grants were now obsolete and should be changed.

We responded to those requests, both from the municipalities and from members of the House. Nobody opposite gives us credit for doing the right thing; they just do not do that over there.

This bill is agreed upon by the vast majority of municipalities in this province and will help put their financial house in order. I commend the bill to the House.

The Deputy Speaker: All those in favour please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

ROYAL ASSENT

The Deputy Speaker: I beg to inform the House in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to certain bills in his chambers.

Assistant Clerk: The following are the titles of the bills to which His Honour has assented:

Bill 5, An Act in respect of Extra-Provincial Corporations;

Bill 36, An Act to amend the Ministry of Energy Act;

Bill 37, An Act to amend the Ontario Pensioners Property Tax Assistance Act;

Bill 57, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act;

Bill 61, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act;

Bill Pr9, An Act respecting the Association of the Chemical Profession of Ontario;

Bill Pr15, An Act to incorporate Baptist Bible College Canada and Theological Seminary;

Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects.

House in committee of the whole.

ONTARIO UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 59, An Act to amend the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Treleaven): Are there any members who wish to speak to various sections?

Mr. Rotenberg: Section 6, if there is nothing before that.

Mr. Chairman: Can we deal with any comment or amendments to sections 1 to 5 inclusive?

Sections 1 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 6:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Rotenberg moves that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following section:

"6. Clause 7(1)(e) of the said Act is amended by striking out 'subclauses 1(1)(c)(i) and (iii)' in the fourth line and inserting in lieu thereof 'subclauses 1(1)(b)(i) and (iii).'"

"And that the present sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the bill be renumbered as sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, respectively."

9 p.m.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, when the Revised Statutes of Ontario were done in 1980, there should have been a renumbering; clause 1(1)(c) should have been changed to 1(1)(b) and was not. This just corrects the reference in the bill and is done at the request of legislative counsel.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further comments from the members?

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, we are quite happy to support this correction of the incompetence of the ministry.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, it was not incompetence of the ministry; it was in the redrafting by the legislative staff in 1980.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, the ministry has been working on this bill for some time, and even at the 11th hour we have to have amendments to the amendments. It is very interesting that it was not ready for the changes.

Section 6, as amended, agreed to.

On section 7:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Breagh moves that section 8a of the act, as set out in section 7 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"8a(1) In this section, "grants" means payments made under this act but does not include payments made under section 5 or 9a.

"(2) Where the total amount of grants that would otherwise be paid to an upper- or lower-tier municipality in any of the years 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 or 1988 is less than 105 per cent of the total amount of grants paid to that municipality in the immediately preceding year, a revenue guarantee grant shall be paid to that municipality so as to raise the total amount of grants paid to it in that year to at least 105 per cent of the grants paid to it in the immediately preceding year."

With all due respect, we had this discussion not terribly long ago in committee. The member will recall that it is only the government that may move a motion that would make an amendment that could involve the expenditure of money. As the member knows, that has to come from the government side. That causes me to believe the member's amendment is out of order.

Mr. Breugh: Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak on it briefly. I do understand that the chair has some difficulty with amendments such as this. This does not call for an expenditure of money in this year's budget, but rather provides to the municipalities a guarantee of government policy in future years.

It seems to me an argument can be made, and I am about to make it, that it is in order for the government to make such commitments. It is in order for members of the Legislature at least to put the argument this evening that for a long time municipalities have asked for some mechanism such as this that would provide them with an opportunity to fulfil the requirements made by the Ontario Municipal Board and others to engage in five-year forecasts to provide for long-range planning.

The government has repeatedly said it is not opposed to that idea. However, it was said this evening, by the parliamentary assistant, that it was not prepared to do it. I thought it was important that the members of the Legislature have an opportunity at least to address themselves to that issue.

If the chair is ruling the amendment out of order, I do not have much recourse to that, but I do think it is a shame that we cannot at least deal with that concept. That was the purpose of moving the amendment.

I believe it to be an important concept, and one that has been sought by municipalities in this province for a long time. I thought a commitment had been given on several occasions in my

political career on the part of the government, in Edmonton and at several conferences I attended, that it would be prepared to accept a principle such as this.

I believed the government thought that was an important thing for the purposes of stabilizing municipal finances, and that was its intention. The unfortunate part is the government has never fulfilled that stated intention.

Mr. Chairman: With all due respect to the member, as I read standing order 15, I have to rule the motion out of order. If there is any other comment or brief, I will certainly be happy to entertain it. If not, I have to rule the motion out of order.

Section 7 agreed to.

Sections 8 to 11, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 59, as amended, ordered to be reported.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned consideration of Bill 141, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, when we last debated Bill 141 in committee on May 8, we were debating the proposed amendment by the New Democratic Party to subsection 33(1). We had a number of speakers from the opposition parties and considerable debate over two evenings, I believe, on this amendment.

Mr. Breugh: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: There are still some further speakers on the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Since we are in committee, we can go back and forth among the members.

Mr. Breugh: If the member wants to participate now, I would be happy, but I would like to speak to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: So noted.

Mr. Gillies: If there are further speakers, I have nothing to add at this point. I would like to hear the member's comments.

Mr. Breugh: Mr. Chairman, I did want to participate in the debate around this amendment. Of all the things that have been brought before this House while I have been a member, there is not one that comes close to this as a measure of importance. It is substantial and the arguments about it ought to be substantial. It is important to an incredibly large number of people. I believe it is important to the economy of this province. Of all of the things one might be able to do in

legislative terms to bring forward equal rights for women, this would be my choice as the one that comes first.

When I think of the women to whom I have talked, although I feel they have many legitimate concerns, such as the provision of day care services, educational opportunities, opportunities for advancement, career opportunities in general, provision of services for children and that whole new catch-phrase of issues involving single-parent families these days, the issue that comes foremost as the one members have to address first is something that addresses an old wrong.

It is wrong that people, and women in particular, are not paid equal amounts of money for doing essentially the same job. It is a thorny issue for many of us, because there are one or two valid arguments in opposition to doing it. There are arguments some of us find obnoxious and difficult to accept. There are arguments that have been put forward in the course of this debate and, in the broader sense, in the debate around equal pay provisions in other forums.

People say it is not possible to come up with a quick and easy mechanism; it is not possible to resolve this problem with legislation; it is not possible to change attitudes or to change social mores by legislation. They say there will be an economic impact on certain segments of our industrial order that will be extremely negative.

9:10 p.m.

One or two of the arguments I have listened to over the years have some validity; others do not. It seems to me we have arrived at a stage in the debate on this matter where a good argument that talks about leaving it as it is for social purposes cannot be mounted. At one time it might have been possible to do that with some validity; I do not know. However, I do not think we can look at an amendment such as this and say we now want to perpetuate something as blatantly unfair as the economic exploitation of one sex by another.

That was an argument that was made for a long time. I suppose it was centred on what some people would call a stereotyped woman's role in life, that they have a supportive role to play. The tragedy, and in some senses it is a very real tragedy, is that much of what many of those here would fantasize about being a woman's role in life is so far from reality as to be unrecognizable any more.

There are those who might say a woman's place is in the kitchen, or supporting the breadwinner in the family, or helping to run a family farm, or helping to run a family business

or any of those quaint ideas. We still see them in many television series, in many movie productions—in what would be the experience of our grandfathers—but those things do not exist any more. They produce problems in many ways because there has been a change in family structure. It is really noticeable in my community. It has effects on schooling, in attempting to raise children and in attempting to transfer values. All these things are disruptive.

It is even more disruptive when one gets to something like equal pay provisions. A woman may have encountered that situation and said: "At least I can go back to work now. I can resume my interrupted career and will be able to support my family or myself. I will be able to reach some aspirations that I once set aside, or go back to school. I will be able to get a decent job and support myself." That is not exactly the way it is for some women. Theoretically, that might be the way it is, but I continue to look in a very pragmatic way at the increasing number of women who are disappointed in this hope. They have a right to expect they will hold down a decent job and receive the same money for doing that job as a man, but for practical purposes right now they cannot. They are becoming more and more aware of that.

Some women in my riding are successful in getting the same pay. They are mostly those in something like the United Auto Workers, where the trade union movement has decided to move in and provide on a contractual basis that a company cannot pay somebody less for doing substantially the same job. If I were to find examples of women who do get equal pay for work of equal value in my community, that would be about the only segment I could look at. I could pick one or two others perhaps, like educators, who might come close to that mark, except there are severe limitations on their opportunities for advancement.

The difficulty falls to this one amendment. In terms of economic advancement, women are still facing the kinds of problems they faced many years ago. The opportunities for some redress, other than earning their own way, are fewer and fewer in our society. In other words, the support systems that were once in place are not there any more.

More and more young women I meet in my constituency office are faced with very severe problems, such as, "Where do I live tonight?" They are not all young women with children. Many of them are older women who have had an unfortunate set of circumstances such as a

marriage breakup. They are 35, 40 or 45 years of age and are now having to go back out into the work place and attempt to deal with the reality of life.

The reality is that there may be some part-time work available for them. More and more women are having to settle for that. Even when they get a full-time job, they are going to be exploited in the work place in financial terms; they are not going to be paid the same amount for doing the same job as a man.

As I said at the beginning, I went through in my own mind as to what might we do. For many years I nurtured the faint hope that society somehow would address itself to this issue and, on a voluntary basis, would organize itself and go into affirmative action programs. Employers would say, "This is a very old-fashioned idea that we can exploit women economically, and we should not do that any more." More and more women would assert themselves in a bargaining unit.

Many women do not have the advantages of belonging to a trade union and do not have the advantages of a bargaining unit to work for them in a contractual, legal sense. They are on their own. Unfortunately, they are in a position where they are vulnerable. If they create a splash about how much money they are being paid, particularly in current economic climates, they will be paid nothing because they will lose their jobs. That is the unfortunate circumstance.

Some days I like to retain the romantic notion that we do not have to do these things in law; that people will recognize something is wrong here and gradually we will educate a population. Gradually we will get into voluntary programs and it will just happen. It might take some time, but more and more people will realize it should be done. Eventually, over the course of a few years, a real wrong will be recognized as a real wrong and it will be corrected.

I changed my mind about equal pay on a legislative basis a few years ago. I sat down with a friend of mine who is a businessman and we talked about this. He struck me as being a very fair person and someone who was not normally exploitive of his work force.

I asked him whether he really believed women should be paid less for doing the same job. He said: "No, I do not. At some point I suppose I will have to pay the women who work for me the same amount of money the men get, but there comes a time when one has to retain some business sense to it all. I cannot go into the work place and pay more than the going rate. The

going rate for women is substantially less than it is for men."

He gave me a long rigmarole, and the gist of his argument was: "The reason women have these jobs is so we can pay them less money than if we had men in the jobs. It cuts my overhead and makes for a larger profit. A business person of either sex would be absolutely insane to provide equal pay for work of equal value unless it was really the law of the land and all the competitors out there had to do the same thing."

I believe he was sincere when he said: "At least then it would be fair: everyone would have to do that; so the competitive edge would not be present. We would all be living with a law that perhaps no one liked, but at least everyone would have to do it."

It started me thinking that the one valid argument against equal pay for work of equal value is the economic argument. It is a valid argument that must be addressed. A business person can say we cannot afford to do the right thing in economic terms; we cannot afford to cease exploiting women. Although it would do society a lot of good to have women paid the same amount of money as men, while it would certainly help some businesses, it would put an economic red mark against others.

What I find offensive about that is it is the same argument that has been used historically over any group that was exploited in economic terms. When there were slaves in North America the reasons were very simple and straightforward. There were crops that had to be harvested and slaves were an economic way to harvest them. One could not put a rational argument in economic terms which said we could do away with slavery. That argument was not an economic one; in fact, it was a moral and social one.

When the child labour laws came into effect in Britain, the arguments by the mine owners were: "We need to use children in the mines. The oldies are dying off too quickly. We need a cheap labour force to get down into the mines. They will last a bit longer than older people and they will take less money. The reason for all this is that we need to make more money; we need to ensure that our profits are stable."

9:20 p.m.

As we go through history and all those arguments, I am reminded that we still face these arguments; they have not gone away. We are still dealing in this Legislature in economic terms with plants that close here to go somewhere else in the world to exploit the cheaper work force.

However, I think at some time a civilized society puts a halt to all of this. It says that on the economic side there is a plus part and a minus part. We are prepared to address ourselves to that. We are prepared to say that when women in the work place are paid equal amounts of money, we will have an economic bonus, so to speak. There will be women who will be able to afford better housing, for example; so there will be some small improvement in the housing stock. There will be women who can afford to buy new cars, which one would hope would be General Motors products made in Oshawa; but they will have the economic wherewithal to do that, and so in some indirect way my auto workers will prosper by this kind of legislation.

Wherever they live and work, women will have an economic ability they do not now have. Whenever we are able to rectify in legislative terms the disparity in moneys paid to women for doing essentially the same amount or the same type of work as men do, there will be an economic plus factor.

There is a downside, and I for one would not want to deny that for a moment, but I think it is grossly overplayed. For example, in the United States, when the slaves were put out of existence by law, the plantations in the south all dealt with a common set of circumstances; some struggled, some had some problems, but most survived. When the mine owners in England had to do without child labour, they too survived. It seems to me that there are pluses and minuses in the economic arguments around equal pay for work of equal value. We should consider those carefully, but on balance they kind of even out.

What we are left with is, are we prepared to accept this kind of blatant discrimination any longer? For me, the answer to that is no. I cannot find a valid argument put forward by anybody that says we should any longer accept that women are paid less money than men. I do not believe that argument exists.

I came out of the teaching profession, as many members know, and at least at certain levels in that profession there is no discrimination in the amounts of money paid for work. It is not that difficult to sort out the equal value part of it either; there are great grid systems in place and all of that. However, there continues to be some difficulty in the teaching profession with affirmative action in a slightly different sense, and that is getting women into positions other than classroom teachers.

When we really get down to whether we can take any other approach, which is something else

I would like to explore just a bit, I believe we now have sufficient information from this jurisdiction and from other jurisdictions to say there really is no other way to do this.

One can quibble that the mechanics of the amendment that is before us are not perfect. One can quibble, for example, that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission as a regulatory agency is not perfect, or that somebody setting hydro rates in Ontario is not perfect, or that the Ontario Municipal Board is not perfect, because the truth is that any regulatory mechanism we might set in play is imperfect; it will not flow smoothly. I think the important criterion is to attempt to establish whether it is functional. I believe this mechanism is.

I believe it is possible in a work place to determine work of equal value. That has been done by and large in several of our professions. It has been done in most of our organized work places. I am not pretending for a moment that in big auto or steel plants the unions have worked out perfect mechanisms. What I am arguing is they have worked out mechanisms that function and serve the purpose, that can be refined and have the rough edges taken off.

The whole Ontario Labour Relations Board exercise is an example of a process that is not perfect, but it is a process that carries forward with its initial task and makes it a functional thing. It works.

I believe the amendment before us now does the same thing. It does not give us perfection or nirvana, but it provides us with a vehicle that will sort out what I believe most members in this House understand—I would hope all, but I know better than that—is an issue that is of prime importance and whose time has come. The time is now to address ourselves to an issue like this.

The time is here now because our society is changing rapidly. More women are aware that this is a very real problem for them. More are aware that there is discrimination in terms of their economic opportunity in the places where they work. Some of them have a vehicle at their disposal, such as a union, where they can begin to rectify the situation. Unfortunately, most of them do not.

I say this with some reluctance, but I know it is true. Even for many of those in an organized work place the truth is their association, their organization, their union may not have the wherewithal to address itself to something like this. I am reminded of many women I know who work in nursing homes where the union has been

in for a short period of time. They do not have many experienced trade unionists and they are struggling like mad to hold on to their jobs, let alone rectify something like this.

We see the phenomenon of contracting out, that is, going into an organized work place, again mostly employing women, and simply exploiting the fear among the workers to make sure they fire half the people and then hire them back at half the wages. I have no illusion that, even if they were organized work places, the union would be able to do a great deal for those workers.

Part of the major problem is this Legislature has not yet resolved the issue of whether it is prepared to put in legislation so women in this province can no longer be exploited in economic terms. In all fairness and justice and as a rational way to proceed, there must be an equal pay provision in law in Ontario.

I have no illusions that it will cause an overnight sensation or that we will do it as smoothly as many people would like. There will be people who resist it as they resist safety or environmental laws or anything else we care to pass a law about. I do know that in the absence of legislation, women stand no chance of rectifying the problem, which gets larger and larger in my community and in every other member's community. The economic and social ramifications are severe.

The government needs to be tricked from time to time into using its free enterprise background. If they really are free enterprisers, they should be saying: "We do not want to subsidize women in the work place. We do not want to subsidize their housing or day care in the work place. We think free enterprisers ought to pay everybody the same amount of money. Let them pay."

In a free enterprise government there ought to be some advocates saying: "Let industry carry its own load. We in this Legislature are saying that kind of discrimination must stop. We are saying to women in the work place they do not have to be subservient to anybody in the work place any more. If they do the same kind of work and we can find the mechanisms which make that consideration, they should get paid the same amount of money."

Government members would do something with their free enterprise background if they said to people in the industrial sector who might not be exactly advocates of this idea: "We are not here as a government to subsidize you or your work force. If you have men and women who work for you and do essentially the same job, you should pay them the same amount of money."

I have not heard that argument lately from even the most serious advocates of the free enterprise system on that side of the House. It bothers me somewhat that there is no one with the guts to stand up and say: "We are not going to subsidize these folks any more. We are telling them if they want to run a business, that is fine, but they should not look to the government to subsidize their work force or the places where these employees are supposed to live."

Looking at the recently published statistics on day care facilities, I see the very rich can afford them—it is not a problem for them; the very poor can afford them, because there are some subsidized spots for them, but the working-class people in the middle have nothing. What do they do? Who helps them? I think in large measure it will turn out to be government at some point or other. I am not sure why that should always be the case. Is there not a role in a free enterprise system, as some of the members opposite so proudly proclaim, to say: "Let people work for a living. Let them get paid equal amounts of money for doing the same job"? They will have the capacity to do certain things a government is reluctant to do.

9:30 p.m.

From my perspective on this side of the House, this amendment is overdue from a social point of view. It would provide an impetus to women to make several social changes in their lives, and it would give them the wherewithal to make that possible.

Among the many women I see in my constituency office, the overwhelming needs are around things having to do with economics, not the big-deal economics but simple economics: "How do I live someplace? How do I feed a family? How do I clothe children who are now my responsibility when I am on my own? How do I get back to school? How do I save up enough money to get into a career again?" These are very practical problems, and they are very sad ones.

I recall a woman who was in to see me just before Christmas who had gone through some economic difficulties. The local housing authority had seen fit to harass her and throw her out; in fact, it went to court. She said: "They were right; I was not paying the rent on time. I was paying rent to the Oshawa Housing Authority, but I was not paying it on time." It is a little difficult to believe that a housing authority would go to court to evict a tenant, a female, a single-parent mother.

It knew she had been having all kinds of problems in that year. It knew why she was

having those problems. It knows more about its tenants in Oshawa than Sam Spade does about his clients. It spies on them. It studies them. It knows their social habits. It knows their economic patterns. It knows whether they are going to school or to work. It knows how many kids they have. It knows how much money they have in the bank. It knows how many visitors they have. It knows everything about its tenants.

The authority knew this woman's circumstances very well, yet it went to a court, got a court order and evicted her.

What she was trying to do was to stay alive, and it seems to me that of all the noble things any of us has a chance to do, just to survive is on the top of the list.

It seems to me that this amendment addresses itself to the first problem of survival: economic survival. If we want to go on after this and talk about other matters—and there is a wide range of them concerning discrimination in many other ways—it seems to me we should do that. On several occasions in this Legislature I have heard ministers talk about other aspects of discrimination—for example, sexual discrimination—but they are talking about a different matter, not economics.

It seems to me that the worst form of discrimination is economic. That is what this amendment addresses itself to, and that is why I think it is of such prime importance. I believe this amendment put forward by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) goes straight to the heart of the most serious economic and social problem we have in this country today. It is one that is shared by much of the world.

It is difficult to come up with much of a pattern that says women can find a place somewhere in this world where they will be paid the same money for doing the same job. It is not easy to stumble on all the arguments that say, "We cannot afford to do this." I have not heard all this debate, but I do not recall hearing one member stand up in this House and say, "Giving women equal pay for work of equal value is not a nice or proper thing to do."

At least we have brought the argument to the stage where it is probably worth your life as a politician to be exactly that stupid in public. This is not to say that politicians would not be that stupid in private, but at least most of those who do get elected would not be dumb enough to say it in public any more. I would hope not. It may be true that several would say it in private, but not in public.

The argument has centred on the economic part of it and on whether this is a practical way to proceed. I think now is the time to say that, whatever technique might cause this to be implemented, we have to try it. Whatever economic problems might be caused by this kind of amendment, there are economic pluses as well and, in my view, they would at least balance out. To be quite frank about it, I believe the economic benefits from providing, in legislative terms, equal pay for work of equal value far outweigh any economic problems anyone might have in any sector of the economy.

I understand the business person's attitude that says: "I would like to do this affirmative action stuff; it is nice. I would like to set up a committee to do that; that is fine." But it would be stupid for a business person to do something that none of his or her competitors is doing now. If we make it law, then at least all of them deal with the same set of factors and all of them deal with the same situation.

General Motors makes automobiles under a wide array of circumstances all over the world. When one talks to people in management at General Motors about economic factors or laws or political stability or any of those things, they will say the bottom line is that as long as everybody faces the same set of laws, in that set of circumstances nobody has a right to complain. If there are heavy environmental laws in one country and everybody has to live up to them, that is fine, they will all do that. If there are heavy laws about notification of plant closures in a country and everybody has to face up to these laws, they all accept them.

I think the time has come to recognize that for equal pay legislation the same thing applies. If tomorrow morning in Ontario we had legislated equal pay, there would be some hue and cry for sure. But the truth is, the bottom line in economic terms is that as long as all employers had to look at the same law and had to make the same adjustments, there would be no economic advantage or disadvantage to anyone. They would all deal with the same law. They would do as most employers do these days and complain about government intervention and all that. They would fire off letters to the editor. One or two might actually appear before a legislative committee and within three months they would have accepted it.

They would say: "Well, I do not like it. I would rather not." But most employers say that about their employees anyway. They say that about employees when they get organized in a

trade union. They say: "We cannot afford to have a union in here. They will bump the wages up sky high. These people will be asking for benefits. They will get genuinely uppity."

Oddly enough, when the union is in and the first strike is over and a first agreement has been put together, labour and management accept a new set of conditions. In my community and in many others, the trade union movement is not considered to be a great, wild threat to anybody who runs an industry. It is a normal part of Canadian life and a normal part of Ontario life.

I recall one of the things I like about living in Oshawa is that, from time to time, I get a chance to sit down and talk to people who were members of the original trade union movement there and hear the arguments they faced when they put a trade union movement into the General Motors plant in the late 1930s. It is exactly the same argument facing women around equal pay provisions now. The company said:

"It cannot be done. You cannot have a union in here. We cannot afford to pay those kinds of wages. We cannot afford to allow you to have grievance procedures and all that stuff; that will muck up management's rights."

After much bitterness and several strikes, the trade union movement in my town, and in communities around Canada, has become part of the scenery. It is an accepted part of the process. It is a part of the process that can be dealt with calmly and rationally, or not so calmly and irrationally, if one will, but it is there. It is in place and it works. It has an economic impact on employers. There is no question about that. But it is one they can live with.

We do not see Ford, Chrysler and GM saying, "Well, we are three groups of corporate entities here that cannot afford to pay our workers decent wages." We get some drift of that in the next few months as they settle down in negotiations, but the truth is they can. As long as they are dealing with the same kind of legislation, they can bargain with their employees. That is not a problem with them. They can make record profits, as General Motors has made in the first quarter of this year and as Chrysler has demonstrated from its comeback; all with an organized work force and all looking at the same kind of laws.

The exact same principle applies to this kind of an amendment. There is no rational thought process which leads one to discard legislated equal pay for work of equal value, save and except the economic one. When members look at that argument from a balanced perspective, I

think they will see that argument was put on the streets of Oshawa in 1937 and discarded. It was put on the plantations in the southern United States a long time ago and was discarded. It was talked about in the mines of Great Britain a long time ago and was discarded. Because the argument that says, "We must be able to discriminate against somebody for economic reasons," is not a valid argument, in a civilized society it should not even be considered as a valid argument.

9:40 p.m.

This is the one I think many members have focused on and it is one I want to talk about a bit tonight because of all the arguments that are put up against this, some specious and some valid. The trick is to throw out the specious arguments, because they are not dealt with seriously by anybody any more, and to look at the valid arguments to see how true they are. Would this really cause a massive disruption in the work force? The answer to that is no, it would not.

For other people and other businesses, it would provide new clients, new customers, new people with an economic buying power that has not been around before. It would relieve this government of some of its social responsibilities because women would not need its help. They would be able to stand on their own two feet. They would be able to do what great free enterprisers want to do, be independent, or at least more so.

I want to participate in this debate this evening because this is a very male-dominated Legislature, as most parliaments are, and that poses a bit of a problem from time to time. I must admit I have this experience on occasion with feminist groups. Feminists use a language men do not understand. They talk about problems men have never experienced. They talk a language men do not use.

They often arrive at one's doorstep very angry, not for what happened to them yesterday and not for one single event, but for a lifetime of frustration and wrongs. They will often arrive at a legislator's doorstep and just unload that lifetime of wrongdoings on somebody who does not even really understand the language they are using.

That is a problem; but the problem is not for women, the problem is for us. People in this chamber say they are elected people. In my terms, being members of the Legislature means we are the pros in this situation. It is our job to understand our constituents. If they use a language we do not understand, the obligation is

on us to learn that language, to understand what those words are all about, to understand what that frustration is all about, not to get caught up on little catchwords heard at a service club or business meeting, but to understand both sides of an issue and to balance it out.

Any member of this Legislature who looks at this amendment and attempts to balance it out sees the argument gets down to some very clear problems. It addresses itself to a basic problem in our society today, one that has a lot of positive ramifications to it.

Every time some poor exploited worker gets an extra \$1 an hour there are those who say all these businesses are going to become defunct overnight. That has never happened in the experience of mankind. I do not believe that argument to be a valid one. It is one that deserves some consideration. One needs to look at it. If looked at for even a short period of time, I think one sees that does not happen.

The argument has been made that we ought first to go to some voluntary program. I have heard it in the Legislature on previous occasions. I would be an advocate of a voluntary program if I had any track record in front of me showing it really worked. From my examination in this and other jurisdictions, I have to say that voluntary programs do not work in this regard. They may work in many respects in other areas of attempting to end discrimination, but they do not work with equal pay provisions.

They do not work because of a simple argument put to me several years ago by a business person that a businessman is nuts to pay more money than he has to to get an employee to do a day's work. It is another matter entirely if the law says one has to pay them all the same amount of money for doing the same kind of work. Then all the competitors out there are dealing with the same set of circumstances. Under those circumstances, all of them will make their profits, and that is fair. From an employer's point of view, that is a fair way to proceed.

I want to conclude by saying this is an incredibly important amendment for this Legislature to try to deal with. I have heard only portions of the debate, but I have heard a good debate on this amendment. It may go on for a while longer, but it is worth it because this amendment deals with the single largest problem women face in our society.

It has to do with their economic survival. For many people, it may take on intonations of an entirely different character than the economic one. For many women, a provision such as this

amendment in this law would be the breakthrough. If they are able to make this breakthrough, a lot of other breakthroughs would follow, a lot of other social patterns would change, a lot of other housing requirements would change, the opportunity to raise the children that are their responsibility would change, their opportunity for career development would change.

I think it is a complicated set of issues, but it is a matter we must address. Its time is long past due. I believe the member for Hamilton East has done a great service to the Legislature in putting forward this amendment.

I support the amendment. I believe it is necessary and I believe it is practical. I believe it has ramifications that are extremely positive in nature. Women, young and old, who visit me and talk in my constituency office about their problems begin with the economic problems. They see that as being the one thing they want to do.

I have not met a woman in my office encountering difficulties who really wanted a handout from anybody. The women who come to me are mostly working-class women. Some are young and some are old. What they want is a chance to fend for themselves in this world. They do not want a handout from anybody. They do not want a gift. They want a chance to get a job that pays decent money.

Most of all, I think it galls them on a day-to-day basis to go into a work place where they do exactly the same job as the men and get paid 60 per cent of the money. They do not understand that and I do not understand it. It is an unfairness and inequity in Canadian law, in Ontario law, that has to be rectified.

The member for Hamilton East has put before us an amendment which does just exactly that. It may not be perfect, but the time has come when the members of this Legislature have to look at an amendment such as this. I believe the amendment we have before us now is one where we have to say: "Yes. There is something wrong here. Here is an amendment which will at least move us toward correcting that wrong, and we must do it."

That was a difficult decision, I am sure, in the southern United States for plantation owners who had been exploiting slaves for years. Some of the plantation owners, I am sure, were kindly Christian people, but looked on that as a business proposition. I am sure that was a problem for mine owners in Great Britain who had exploited children. I am sure some of the mine owners were

kindly Christians as well, but they looked on this as an economic business proposition. I am not sure employers in Canada would get quite that carried away on that matter, but I think most of them would say yes.

If there was a law that said we had to pay women equal pay for work of equal value, there would be a hiccup or two in the system, but we would overcome that. At the same time, we would address what I think is the most grievous kind of discrimination that still exists in Ontario today. There is not a member here who can defend the concept that in Ontario at this day and age women should do the same kind of jobs as men for about 60 per cent of the money.

That is unfair. That is socially wrong and morally wrong. I believe it is also economically wrong. I support this amendment. I would encourage other members, even those who might not consider it to be quite their number one problem, even those who are busy gossiping around in the back benches late on a Tuesday evening, to change their minds on the matter, if they have not already, and reconsider. I believe the amendment to be an important one and one which deserves to be supported by all members of this Legislature. It is practical, it can be done and it must be done.

Mr. Sweeney: I wish to speak to it, Mr. Chairman, but if the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) has a comment to make at this time I am quite willing to let him.

Mr. Gillies: Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, in reply to the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh), I want to thank him for a very thoughtful contribution to the debate. I want to point out to him that what he just said is a very thoughtful, very positive and very supportive series of comments about Bill 141. They were very wide-ranging and philosophical remarks, as were those by the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), whom we heard from when we adjourned the debate on May 8.

9:50 p.m.

I do not want particularly to get into the philosophical things about which the member spoke. I am sure there would be very little disagreement among members of this House about the historical evolution of our society away from a situation where things such as slavery, child labour and so on were tolerated to a situation where it is our wish to bring women into a position of complete equality in the marketplace and our desire to reduce the 37 per cent wage gap between men and women that we in the government believe is unconscionable.

Having said all that, I would remind the member that twice during his speech he used the phrase, "If we, men and women, do the same kind of work, then we should be paid the same wage." I completely agree with that and the government agrees with that. I would say to the member that is what Bill 141 is all about. That is what we are about. He may have noticed that during the three or four days of debate on this bill, I have not been overly critical of the NDP amendment. There is much in it that is already in our draft of Bill 141, so I can hardly be very critical of it.

Let us be very clear about this. We all know we are talking about the first clause of the bill. We are talking about how far the government should go in the adjudication of cases where the work is dissimilar. To use his own phraseology again, the government accepts that the time has come to adjudicate in cases where a meaningful comparison of the types of work can be made.

The member voiced concern about the situation of women who may even be in the organized part of the work force. There are things in our bill that will assist them as members of a union local in presenting their cases before the employment standards officer in a quasi-class action. We will have more employment standards officers to assist them, to adjudicate and prosecute these cases. I agree with that too.

Where we run into a problem and where we part company with the amendment is in the comparison of dissimilar work. The government has a concern about how far in that direction we can go, but we fully accept that legislation has to be part of the mix of responses in order to bring about that equality in the work place that we seek.

In reply to the member, I agree with him entirely that where people are doing the same kind of work—and we go further than that in the bill—where they are doing similar work or where a meaningful comparison can be made, we feel that legislation has to be part of the arsenal of weapons to redress this wage gap. I ask the member to reflect on the difference between our bill and the amendment in the comparison of work that is utterly dissimilar.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond briefly. The member has pointed out some areas where we may share some common ground. I want to point out to him that the United Auto Workers does not need his help. The UAW is a large and reasonably responsible trade union that has the capacity to look after its own members. It does not need the member at its

bargaining table. It has an economic power that not every union has. It has expertise in terms of organization that not every union has.

There are a number of trade unions around that have that ability now. They have generated in their work places most—not all, but most—of what I think would be necessary for equal pay. I do not think teachers, to pick another trade union, although I am not so sure they will appreciate the comparison, need the member's help either; nor does the Ontario Medical Association, one of the most powerful trade unions in Ontario, nor the Law Society of Upper Canada, perhaps the most powerful trade union in Ontario in many respects.

None of those big trade unions, the law society, the OMA, the UAW, whoever, needs the member's help. Thanks a lot, but they do not need him at their side to handle grievances for them. They do not need him at the bargaining table; they can handle that act quite nicely. The people who do need his help are working in smaller plants. They need a more direct legislative response than he is prepared to give them.

I think the member for Brantford recognizes there are many people, men and women in our society, who do not need the government's help at all. Thanks a lot, they appreciate his moral support and all that. They are on the side of the legislation, but no problem exists there. The problem exists in other work places where the determination of what is equal work is a little more difficult, and this is precisely what our amendment addresses. It defines the mechanism that makes that determination. I am afraid that what the government has done in this bill—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Piché): With all due respect to the member for Oshawa, I think he is repeating himself.

Mr. Breagh: You should be so fortunate as to be able to repeat yourself.

Mr. Mitchell: That is unparliamentary.

Mr. Roy: That is disrespectful towards the chair.

Mr. Breagh: You got it, Albert. You are a little smarter than you look. I do apologize to the chair.

The Acting Chairman: I accept the apology from the member for Oshawa.

Mr. Breagh: Thank you.

With all due respect to the member for Brantford, I think what one has to look at in this amendment is the need for a mechanism to help those in a work place where this is not happening now. Quite frankly, this is why I support the

amendment put forward by the member for Hamilton East.

It takes the government's bill, which sometimes resolves problems that do not exist, and points it in a slightly different direction. It makes it address itself to how one resolves these problems in a work place where there is not a good resolution now.

That is why I think this amendment is particularly important and that is why I commend it to all members for their support.

The Acting Chairman: I now recognize the member for Kitchener-Wilmot, who has promised to be very brief.

Mr. Sweeney: Very brief, Mr. Chairman. Actually, I am here for the next piece of legislation, but I could not let this pass after hearing the eloquent contributions from the member for Oshawa and the member for Brantford.

Let me begin by saying the member for Brantford has just missed the point. Obviously, that is a personal interpretation, but he has just missed the point. As a matter of fact, this legislation has just missed the point.

I am very pleased to participate in a debate whereby the government of the day has realized that its previous legislation, which talked of equal work, is not working. It just does not work at all.

I remember very clearly the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) and the former Minister of Labour getting up in this House and trying quite desperately to argue that the necessary legislation was in place, that we had legislation that called for equal pay for equal work and that it would do the job. Yet it has been brought to the attention of the government and to the attention of two Ministers of Labour that it is not working. Many examples were brought to their attention.

This legislation goes one step further; I will accept that. As a matter of fact, I am pleased the government has moved one step further. Really, all I want to say at this time in support of this amendment is, let us go the rest of the way. Let us accept the fact that work of equal value is the only way that working women in Ontario are going to get the kind of recompense and remuneration they have a right to get. It is a right in simple justice. It has nothing to do with philosophy; it has nothing to do with partisanship; it has nothing to do with politics. It is a question of simple justice.

I can remember very clearly that when we were debating this point in committee about four years ago we had a number of women appear

before the committee to indicate to us the kinds of conditions under which they were working. They asked us as members of the committee: "Could you support that? Could you agree with that kind of discrimination? Do you think that is fair? Do you think that in a free, open, democratic society such as we have this is just?"

I want to say to the member for Brantford—and I cannot recall offhand whether he was present at that point—the general consensus was that no, this had to change.

10 p.m.

There have been two or three private members' bills, as I am sure the member for Brantford is well aware, but this is the first time we have had a government bill that comes close to meeting this objective. I guess what I am really trying to argue to the parliamentary assistant is, let us go the next step and let us agree that the only way working women are going to get a fair deal in the economic, social and industrial society of the province is if we incorporate a clause dealing with equal pay for work of equal value.

I suspect there is a certain level of support for this on the part of the member's national leader. I know there is from the Premier (Mr. Davis). Just a few short days ago, right in this city, in a meeting with a large number of women, the national leader pledged himself publicly, clearly, without any hesitation—from what I could see watching on television—to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

The Premier has said over and over again that he supports the federal leader, that he supports the principles for which the federal leader stands and that he will give his full support to any government the federal leader might lead. That is not quite the language he uses, but it is the language I will use. If he means that, then I have to ask how the parliamentary assistant cannot support the same principle. If it can be supported federally, why not provincially?

Ontario has taken the lead in many cases. Let it take the lead once again. Let us show the other provinces that we can give some leadership in this most important economic and social goal.

I want to pick up a theme the member for Oshawa spoke of quite well. He said that as we go back through the ages we find arguments against slavery and against child labour. I would like to quote a couple of short sentences from a book called *The Story of Ontario*. It refers to the first Legislative Assembly in this province:

"The first parliament of Upper Canada met in a log building called Navy Hall in Newark on

September 17, 1792." The member probably realizes that Newark is now called Niagara-on-the-Lake. Coincidentally, it is represented today by the member for Brock (Mr. Welch), who is the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. What could be more appropriate?

The book goes on to indicate some of the legislation that was passed at that very first legislative assembly: "One of the most important laws passed at this first session was the one that put an end to slavery in Upper Canada." We should all be proud of the fact that our province was the first British colony to do away with slavery. It was said in many other North American jurisdictions that economically we could not do away with slavery. Yet in 1792 the first Legislative Assembly in Ontario, the first British colony, did away with it.

Why can we not set an example today? In 1984, in this Ontario Legislature, in this bi-centennial year, why can we not do away with a form of economic slavery that the working women of this province face? I am not trying to exaggerate the matter. Surely there is not a member of this Legislature who would not agree that working women in Ontario deserve, as a matter of simple justice, to get the same kind of economic remuneration that men get for doing work of equal value.

I say to the government, particularly to the member for Brantford—and I am sure there are a considerable number of working women in his riding as there are in my mine and as there probably are in every other riding in this province—this is an opportunity to take this legislation, which admittedly does go a certain distance, the rest of the way. That is all I am arguing for: take it the rest of the way.

I want to make one final point to the parliamentary assistant. We know from other situations that industry and business in this province, as in most jurisdictions, will often do only what they are required to do. The member for Brantford might remember that when I was speaking to the Minister of Labour a few days ago on another piece of legislation with respect to skills training, I pointed out to the minister that the very same corporations that operate in Ontario and do not train their workers also operate in many European jurisdictions and do train their workers.

The only difference is that in the European jurisdictions it is a legislative requirement; in Ontario it is not. It is not a matter of corporate decision-making. It is simply a matter of the legislative requirements of the jurisdictions in

which they happen to operate. The same thing would be true of this situation if we in this House tonight were to take the step to make it a legislative requirement. Business and industry in Ontario would obey it. They would follow it.

As my colleague the member for Oshawa has pointed out, there may be some objections and criticisms, but within a relatively short period of time, if everyone were under the same mandate, if everyone had to pay the same kind of wages for the same kind of work of equal value, they would do it. It would not take very long until we could find ways economically to be competitive with other jurisdictions. That would be done. I say to the parliamentary assistant, we are so close, let us just go one step further. Let us take it to the point where it will meet the real needs of the working women of this province.

I close by reminding the parliamentary assistant that when we had hearings three or four years ago, we had corporate executives appear before us. I remember in particular representatives from de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. They said that within their corporate structure they did have a policy of equal pay for work of equal value. They admitted that when they first started, it was difficult to make comparisons and to draw up charts and all the other things they needed to make comparisons for dissimilar work. I use that term because that is the term the member used. They said initially they had some difficulty doing that, but they also told us that they had done it. They admitted to us that once it was in place, it really was not difficult to administer.

In other words, I am saying to my honourable colleague it can be done, it is being done and it should be done. The member for Brantford is well aware of the fact that in the federal domain this is the law. He knows his own federal leader supports it. He knows the candidates for the federal leadership of my party support it. Now is the time for the representatives and members of the Ontario governing party to support it.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak to the amendment to the bill that has been advanced by my colleague the member for Hamilton East. I do not want to make a very lengthy contribution to the debate, but like the past two speakers what concerns me most is that we seem to be getting closer by significant degrees to an objective that has been sought for so long, and yet we seem to be reluctant to take the final step.

When one looks back at the history of the movement towards women's equality in this province, much of which has been played out one

time or another within the confines of this Legislature, one looks back on a very long, drawn-out process indeed. One thinks back to 100 years ago when Dr. Emily Stowe founded her literary society in Toronto as a kind of cover for a suffrage movement for women in the province.

One thinks back 90 years to the years when that great educator of this province, James Hughes, a member of this Legislature, began annually introducing his motions for women's suffrage in this province.

One thinks back 80 years to the founding of the Dominion Women's Enfranchisement League by the daughter of Emily Stowe, a second generation in the process, about women like Flora MacDonald, and back 70 years ago when finally women's suffrage was established.

It took 30 years to reach that stage.

Mr. Charlton: All progress had to be wrenched from this government.

Mr. Allen: From the government in power. One would have to say to my colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) that the first stage of that battle was undertaken against the Liberal regime. After 1905, it was undertaken against the Tory regime. One would have to say it was not the basis of principle, the natural right of women or the dignity that is inherent in their person, but simply the basis of their practical contribution to a war effort that finally won the suffrage for them. But it took more than a generation.

It was not until the 1930s that we began in this province and this country in general what was called the formal classification of work in work places so that work could be compared in some style. It was not until 1951 that we in this country adopted a much-weakened version of the International Labour Organization's pioneering proposal put forth to the international community, that compensation be on the basis of equal pay for work of equal value, which has since that day been the benchmark against which we have attempted to reach and press for on behalf of women in our economy and society.

At that time the country was not willing to move that far. It was prepared only to take that first small step and to begin attaching a term of equality to pay that women received but not to define in any particular way exactly what that applied to other than to leave the clear impression that it was to apply only to exactly the same work.

More than 30 years later, why should we be again at a point where we are trying to

equivocate, where we are trying to forestall moving finally into that last stage which has been opened up for us for so long as an option, of equal pay for work of equal value? To begin talking another kind of language, speaking of "substantially the same," etc., as though that were a kind of substitute for the classical language of the debate, is something I find rather astonishing.

It is not that the problem is not still great. As we look across this province, women's wages in general run to about 64 per cent of those of men. In the government, in the public service, they tend to be somewhat higher, but when we look at comparisons of the compensation women receive, even in apparently enlightened institutions such as universities, we discover that very well-trained clerk typists and stenographers earn considerably less—not just 73 per cent but considerably less than that—than relatively untrained truckers.

Those comparisons can be made time and time again. Surely it is time for us to recognize something about the old argument that, since women generally are not as well educated as men, one could expect that even though they might be performing work of a similar character, they should not be equally compensated. We now know the women in our population are on average at least as well educated as men. We know they may even be edging beyond men on average across the board in educational qualifications.

There is certainly a *prima facie* case to be made with regard to the objective facts of the matter, quite apart from getting into the human rights and human needs considerations of women involved at those lesser levels of compensation.

The argument that seems to be given to us is not that there is no natural right or that there is not some substantial need, either in theory or in practice; the argument seems to be a problem of implementation, that it would entail such an extensive bureaucratic operation that it is entirely too confusing, too encumbering and too complicated for us to be able to get our minds or our business and office systems around it.

It is interesting that when one turns to the consultants who advise major corporations with respect to these matters, they seem to be significantly impressed by the ease with which it can be done.

For example, I read of an American economist, David Thompson, who is the vice-president of William M. Mercer Ltd., a multinational conglomerate that is in turn a consultant to corporations and governments on employee

benefits, compensation and human rights programs. Mr. Thompson has no trouble with the idea. In fact, he is busy advising the corporations to which he is a consultant to move as rapidly as they can to equal pay for work of equal value, partly because he recognizes it is a fairly straightforward operation.

I would like to read from a passage of a report on his and similar consultants' activities: "According to consultants, it can be assimilated into job evaluation schemes which exist in most companies where jobs of different sorts are routinely rated and compared. A corporation decides which values it wants to reward and consultants can design a system, breaking down every job into four broad groups: skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions. Each category is further split into factors such as supervisory responsibility, financial accountability, contacts, human relations skills. Statistical techniques are then used to weigh each factor. Points are assigned and added up and, in this fashion, equal value can be determined in relation to different sorts of work."

It is a straightforward process. With the kind of computing skills we have at our disposal in virtually every corporation these days, it can be done quite readily without a great deal of difficulty.

The other reason consultants are busy advising major corporations in particular to get on with it is the simple fact that if they do not, it will turn out to be rather costly and embarrassing to them when they come before the courts and have to confess they have been standing in the way of a relatively easily applied proposition, one that is so justified on moral and human grounds.

10:20 p.m.

If there is no problem in implementation, and the experts who are advising the corporations are pushing the corporate sector in that direction, I fail to understand why this government, if it is concerned about this question, is not equally putting pressure on the corporate sector. Why is it not acting as an advocate instead of simply measuring its step by the distance it thinks the average corporation is prepared to go, listening to all its objections and then lying back and saying: "Oh well, we cannot take those last steps. Too bad. We will just have to wait another 10 or 20 years because, after all, we know it takes generations of change, shifts of major cultural attitudes and all the rest of it." We will do all that same runaround of argument that has impeded so many reforms in the past when they might have been accomplished much earlier than they were.

There simply is no need in the circumstances in which we find ourselves in Ontario—in view of the state of mind, it seems to me, of most of our public and in view of the readiness and capacity of our corporate sector to embrace, embody and establish a measure like this—for us to hold back any longer.

The argument that is so frequently used, of course, has to do with cost. When I look at that and when I look at reform after reform in the past that has finally come into play, cost has been one of the arguments that has been used over and over again. It was not going to be possible to implement the nine-hour day in the 1870s because it would drive employers out of business; it was not going to be possible a generation and a half later to establish an eight-hour day because it would drive employers out of business.

But when we got around to shortening those days, when we got around to introducing new work weeks, the businesses did not disappear; they stayed in place, they coped, they went on and they prospered. There really is no significant reason, it seems to me, for us to delay any further. After all, the implementation of this, if we move to a full implementation, will of course be a step-by-step operation. It will not suddenly be an overnight operation in every single plant in the province; it will be phased in, we will gain experience with it and it will grow. But it must grow from the presupposition that we are in fact going to establish equal pay for work of equal value in Ontario in the middle of this decade of this century. The time is long past. The time is now, and it is time for us to act.

So I rise to support this amendment in the hope that my fellow members also will deem it worth while to support it and to let us get on with the job of giving women that final base of economic security and economic equality that this amendment portends for them.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, I, like the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen), am going to involve myself in this debate briefly. I do so because I think a tremendous amount has been said that, I hope, has not escaped the members who perhaps will not be supporting this amendment.

I want to read from the Human Rights Code, which, as members will recall, the Premier of this province unveiled here in front of the Legislature with fanfare in March of this year. It basically talks about human rights and about the rights and the dignity that people have. I just want to read the preamble and then only one

particular section of the Human Rights Code. The preamble states:

"Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world and is in accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as proclaimed by the United Nations;

"And whereas it is public policy in Ontario to recognize the dignity and worth of every person and to provide for equal rights and opportunities without discrimination that is contrary to law, and having as its aim the creation of a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of each person so that each person feels a part of a community and able to contribute fully to the development and wellbeing of the community and the province;

"And whereas these principles have been confirmed in Ontario by a number of enactments of the Legislature and it is desirable to revise and extend the protection of human rights in Ontario...."

This was signed by the Premier, the Minister of Labour and the chairman of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

I want to quote section 4(1), which says: "Every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to employment without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, age, record of offences, marital status, family status or handicap." That quotation says everyone has a right to equal treatment with respect to employment. I would assume the benefits that flow out of that employment are part and parcel of that clause.

For the last month and a half, we in the Legislature have stood in our places during the orders of the day and each one of us has presented a petition which says:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal

value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

All of us have heard that petition being read many times in this Legislature, but it seems to me not a lot of the members hear what it is all about and what it means. It says women in Ontario earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men.

The Human Rights Code says discrimination in employment is not allowed in Ontario. Neither is discrimination in wages. How could that be true when we hear that women get paid 60 per cent—or 64 per cent I hear it is now—of the wages of men? It is a basic injustice that has to be rectified.

Whether we as parliamentarians in this place are going to take the bull by the horns and do it now, or whether it is going to be done in a year from now or 10 years from now, we can rest assured that this discrimination is going to end. It

must end. There is no way, in a society such as ours, these kinds of injustices are going to be tolerated for a long period of time. We no longer will return to the 1800s in this province; we are in 1984.

A lot of women and a lot of men are beginning to open their eyes and see those injustices that occur in Ontario in 1984. Therefore, the pressure comes upon this government, upon this parliament, to bring in basic changes to get rid of those injustices.

The Deputy Chairman: This is the moment for the member to break.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gregory, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with a certain amendment and progress on another bill.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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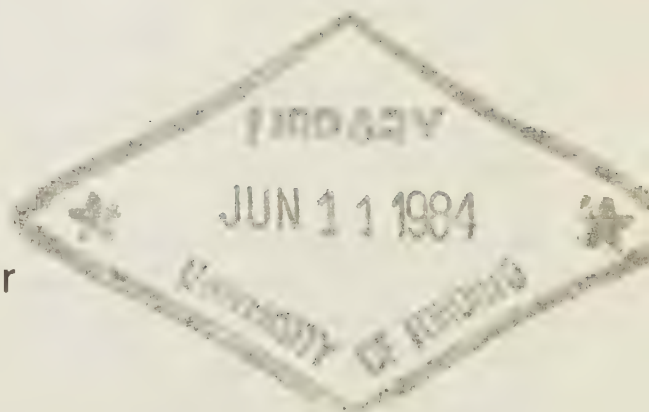
Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, May 31, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 31, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

FOREST REGENERATION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I want to advise members of the public and members of the press that the Marek report by Mr. George T. Marek, which was submitted at the request of the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), which was made available to me and to my colleagues in this party by the Ministry of Natural Resources and which we subsequently made available to the press, has now, we understand, on orders of either the deputy minister or the minister, been taken out of circulation by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

I am really just rising to draw members' attention to that rather bizarre fact and simply to indicate to anyone who may wish a copy of the report, which is a devastating critique of the policies of the Ministry of Natural Resources, that we would be more than pleased to provide the necessary copies, although it has been taken out of circulation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I need not point out to the honourable member that his point was hardly one of order.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The leader of the third party indicated that either I or the deputy minister of my ministry took the document out of public circulation. If the leader of the third party had any sense of responsibility at all, which he does not, he would have reviewed the transcript, the Hansard report of the discussion of the Marek report in the standing committee on resources development, which for the last week and a half has been examining the estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

He would have understood that the Marek report had been in my hands for less than four weeks, that some of the recommendations in this report have already been in place as policies, directives and guidelines for our ministry for four years. He would also know that all the Ministry of Natural Resources guidelines are available to the public and that our library in the Ministry of

Natural Resources contains more documents than he will ever find time to read.

Mr. Rae: Are you denying what I said is true?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Yes, I am. Do you want me to say it another way? Come on down to estimates.

Mr. Rae: I will be in estimates. I will be there. Do not worry

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ACCESS TO CIVIL SERVANTS

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, as you know, the government recently introduced a bill with respect to privacy of information. I draw to your attention a very important principle I thought was supported by this Legislature and by the people of Ontario. It concerns the Ministry of Revenue, where one of the members of my staff and I have been trying to meet with the commissioner of assessment in the region of York. We have been told we cannot meet with this commissioner of assessment unless the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory) gives his permission each time we want to meet with him.

I find this practice intolerable. It means he is saying to us and to the people of Ontario that every time we as members of the Legislature want to speak to any one of the thousands of civil servants, we have to call his office in order to get permission to do so. This is going to be a bureaucratic nightmare, aside from—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member please resume his seat. I must point out, as he must already know, that this is a point of neither privilege nor order.

Mr. Epp: We must have that—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I did let you make your statement. Would the honourable member please resume his seat.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I raise this as a point of privilege because this is the second time that honourable member has raised this as a point of privilege or a point of order rather than as a question in the House.

If the member wants an honest answer to that question, he should place it as a question. Instead of taking this cowardly way he takes of raising it as a point of order, I suggest he ask a question.

Mr. Sargent: What is the answer, John?.

Mr. Speaker: Eddie, I can just point out to you that oral question time is coming.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I want some clarification on this. I am told by the minister that I now have to ask a question during question period in order to be able to speak to his staff.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the honourable member please resume his seat. I just want to point out to the member and to all honourable members that you are asking something of me that is beyond my authority to do.

Interjections.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, may I ask why you listened to the minister, but you are not prepared to hear the opposition member? Perhaps you could clarify that.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know where you were. On the contrary, I did hear the honourable member and I heard him fully. I then thought it was only fair and evenhanded to listen to the minister. I am not going to engage in a debate. I have made my decision.

ATTENDANCE OF STAFF AT ESTIMATES

Mr. Speaker: On Tuesday last I undertook to consider the points raised by the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. J. A. Reed) and other members concerning the right of a committee considering estimates to request the attendance of civil and public servants.

By convention, it is the responsibility of a minister to defend the expenditure proposals of and the policy implied in the estimates of his ministry. However, civil and public servants have attended estimates committees to assist their ministers personally, and in recent years there has been a gradual movement towards more direct participation of civil and public servants in the estimates process.

It has become the practice of many ministers to make their officials available to the committees to provide factual and background information on ministry expenditure proposals and to explain the administration of ministry policy. Traditionally, such witnesses have not been asked to state their own views on, advocate or defend government policy or political matters or to reveal confidential or privileged matters.

On April 2, 1984, the House by order established the committees for the current

session with the "power to examine and inquire into all such matters as may be referred to them by the House, with power to send for persons, papers and things, as provided by section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act."

Accordingly, a committee considering a minister's estimates may, on motion adopted by a majority of the committee, invite or request a civil or public servant to appear before the committee. The failure of a civil or public servant to answer a committee's invitation or request could result in a report to the House asking the House to authorize the Speaker to issue his warrant to compel an official to attend the committee and give evidence.

With the concurrence of the majority of the assembly, civil servants and public servants may be compelled, pursuant to section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act, to attend a committee to answer any question and deliver any document required by the committee so long as the committee is acting within its terms of reference. Whether or not the witness is a competent witness who should be heard by an estimates committee is a matter on which the chairman of a committee should rule.

Finally, I would like to reiterate what I have said on a number of occasions. Procedural difficulties that arise in standing and select committees ought to be settled in the committee and not in the House. It is clearly established that matters alleged to have arisen in committee, but not reported by the committee, may not be brought to the attention of the House as a question of privilege and the opinion of the Speaker may not be sought on such matters.

[Later]

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek clarification on the ruling you made on the calling of witnesses before a committee. Am I to understand that because of your ruling and because the majority of members on any given committee are government members, any time the government members decide the opposition should hear the facts concerning any ministry only from the minister involved and the facts as interpreted by that minister only, that is all members of the committee will be entitled to hear? Is that the impact of your ruling?

Mr. Speaker: Let me summarize it as simply as I can. I do not have any authority to direct any committee to do anything.

Mr. Rae: I think we understand now what the rules of the game are.

Mr. Speaker: I thought you would.

PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr. Speaker: I have further had the opportunity to review the report of the remarks of the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) made during the proceedings following oral question period on Tuesday last.

The standing orders contain specific prohibitions against the use of words that may be judged to be offensive or disorderly. The determination as to whether words used in the House are offensive or disorderly rests with the Speaker, and the Speaker's judgement depends on the nature of the word and the context in which it is used. I remind the House that all members are judged to be honourable members and the Speaker cannot be expected to judge which member is telling the truth.

In this case, I find the remarks of the honourable member were offensive and disorderly and I would ask him to withdraw his words.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I will be only too happy to withdraw if I know what it is I am to withdraw. Would you mind telling me what it was I said, and then I will judge as to whether to withdraw?

Mr. Speaker: Let me recall. If my memory serves me correctly, you suggested the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), whom you named by name, was distorting the truth. Just withdraw, please.

Mr. Riddell: I am going to. I have been given to understand this is a weakness the member has possessed ever since he entered politics. He is more to be pitied than anything else. I will withdraw.

Mr. Martel: That is gracious.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery the Honourable George H. Ryan, Lieutenant Governor of Illinois. Mr. Ryan is visiting Ontario on a courtesy call, meeting with the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) and with officials of the Ministry of Energy and Ontario Hydro.

Further, we are honoured to have members of the Great Circus of China who are seated in the Speaker's gallery on the west side. I am sure all honourable members join with me in welcoming this talented group to the Legislative Assembly.

[Applause]

Mr. Breaugh: Welcome to the great circus here.

Mr. Rae: We have our own acrobats.

Mr. Speaker: I did not think they would have this effect.

For the information of all honourable members, it is interesting to note that this circus is based in Canton, China, and is one of more than 100 circus troupes in China. As members may know, the circus has been an important part of Chinese culture and Chinese life for more than 2,000 years.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the harmony of the afternoon, I would like to report on our successful golf tournament yesterday afternoon in aid of the heart fund. We had the eclipse out there also, but it really did not eclipse the Sun because Claire Hoy was the big winner with 75, followed by our own Alex McFedries from the Clerk's table.

2:20 p.m.

From my naturally unbiased and nonpartisan observations, it seemed the Progressive Conservative shots went right down the fairway. Those of the official opposition were somewhat scattered. It seldom happens, but on this occasion they were a little unpredictable. There was one shot from the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) that did not veer to the left. It went closest to the pin, and did he not win an award? He was on target for once.

The big winner was the heart fund. I want to tell the members and you, Mr. Speaker, that no less than \$1,700 was given to the heart fund from this very modest effort. I think it exceeds that amount. On behalf of the heart fund and the golf committee, we thank all the contributors. In fact, we are keeping the books open until tomorrow if anyone wants to kick in. We hope to make it an annual event.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, as the representative from our party who helped a little with the planning, I would like to join in the comments made by the member for Mississauga South. It was a pleasure for me to do so and to see the heart fund be the winners.

I submit that the honourable member's comments about shots straying to the right or left perhaps are a degree inaccurate, but given that some of the shots may have wandered a little to the right or to the left, they went farther than most of the Progressive Conservative shots.

I also want to add that the small but mighty band of Grits who showed up yesterday feel that perhaps the score-card of the press representatives should be rechecked.

To get a little more team competitiveness out of this, we are working on the possibility of a True Grit trophy which would go to one of four groups that participate—the three political parties and the press gallery. I submit that if it becomes an annual event—we had the best average score—we will present the trophy to the group that scores best.

In summary, it is a pleasure to participate, and I reiterate the words of the member for Mississauga South that the books are open until tomorrow. Perhaps we could get another few hundred dollars and make it to \$2,000.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I had my one good shot; I won a bottle of Scotch, and then I missed a three-foot birdie. I did not want to win everything.

I simply want to say that in my opinion, it was a great effort, a humble start, but I think it will grow because those of us who were there, and participated, thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The efforts on behalf of the heart fund are commendable, and I hope it can be repeated next year.

The discussion that will ensue is that more members should participate, because we were far outnumbered by the press. The only reason Claire Hoy won was that there were about eight members and the odds were in favour of the press, although we tried hard enough. But next year, if we could just prevail upon members to—

Mr. Foulds: If there had been television coverage, he would not have won.

Mr. Martel: If there had been television coverage, I would have starred, Claire.

I hope more members can participate next year to make it a success, a repeat of yesterday but enlarged so the contribution to the heart fund will be even greater.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

JAPANESE INVESTMENTS IN ONTARIO

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would like to report to the members of this House on the progress being made in attracting Japanese investments to Ontario.

My ministry's objective is to demonstrate to Japanese industry that Ontario is the ideal location for serving the North American market. Success in this regard means not only immediate job creation in Ontario but also new technologies, new management techniques, access to

new markets and the generating of spinoff opportunities for Canadian-owned firms.

The first such venture was launched a year ago with the purchase by Mitsubishi of the RCA Midland facility. I am pleased to advise the honourable members that production of picture tubes at the Midland plant is now well beyond the levels originally anticipated.

Until a week ago, the plant was operating only one shift, according to plan. As of next week, there will be three shifts and the total work force will nearly double to more than 400 people, well ahead of schedule.

The Midland facility now is supplying four firms in Canada and exporting to the United States and the United Kingdom. Further markets are expected in Singapore and Australia.

Mitsubishi is also working with Electrohome, a Canadian firm, to provide picture tubes for a line of television consoles that will be marketed by Mitsubishi in the United States. This is the sort of joint venture we had hoped for when attracting Mitsubishi to Ontario.

Perhaps most important, the Midland facility is among the most productive in the world, with standards of quality equal to those of the best operations anywhere.

We are now hopeful that Midland will begin to produce high-resolution tubes for video display terminals in 1985, a year earlier than planned. This development would create further jobs and a substantial increase in export earnings.

The Mitsubishi success has been followed up aggressively with other Japanese firms. As a result of my visit to Japan last fall, I will participate this afternoon in the sod turning for a new plant in Uxbridge being constructed by Tokai Seiki. This plant will produce up to 30 million disposable lighters a year. Initially, it will employ about 30 people, but further expansion is anticipated on the 80-acre site. In addition to the manufacturing plant, Tokai will also build a management conference centre, which will be used by executives from around the world.

Mr. Foulds: Did you get the approval of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) for this?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Just sit there and be jealous.

My ministry is working in close co-operation with the federal government, and I am confident our partnership with Ottawa will be successful in attracting further Japanese investment to Ontario in the near future.

SENIOR CITIZENS' MONTH

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, as this is the last day of May, I would like to remind honourable members that June is Senior Citizens' Month in Ontario.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Well done, Gordon. You did very well.

Hon. Mr. Dean: There is more.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Dean: This year marks the 24th anniversary of this tribute to seniors, which recognizes both the past contributions and the enormous potential of a vital and growing segment of our population.

It is my pleasure to announce that in honour of the province's first month-long celebration of seniors, the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development is sponsoring two special variety shows for the entertainment of senior citizens.

I would also hope that all honourable members will take the time to visit the St. Lawrence Lounge in the Macdonald Block during June. The secretariat has arranged for a month-long exhibit featuring the crafts of the Ontario division of the Red Cross involving veterans from Sunnybrook Hospital. Participants will be demonstrating their craftsmanship, and the exhibit will include such items as handmade wall hangings, silk-screened scarves and glass figurines.

We plan to kick off Senior Citizens' Month with a Salute to Seniors show on Sunday, June 3, at Hamilton Place, and in Thunder Bay with a performance at the Coliseum on Thursday, June 7. Nationally known broadcaster Joel Aldred has assisted the secretariat in putting together a two-hour program of first-class entertainment and will be the master of ceremonies for both events.

This Salute to Seniors show demonstrates not only the government's appreciation of seniors' contributions to Ontario society but that of the community as well. Admission to Salute to Seniors is free as the province's gift of thanks to senior citizens.

Along with my secretariat, I have been very enthusiastic in the preparation of Senior Citizens' Month celebrations. I am pleased to report that municipalities, libraries, seniors' organizations and businesses throughout the province have also shown tremendous support of the province's tribute to seniors.

This month provides the perfect opportunity for all of us to show our seniors our appreciation for past and present contributions to the community. I hope all my colleagues will encourage

the development of Senior Citizens' Month celebrations in their own constituencies.

To assist the public with the promotion of local events that focus attention on seniors, my secretariat has produced a colourful poster depicting the month's theme, "We all have a lot to share." The message is clear. The skills, knowledge and experience that seniors can share with all age groups makes them a vital part of our society. Senior citizens have much to give, and our communities are greatly enriched by their contribution.

2:30 p.m.

We are also fortunate to have the contributions from senior citizens of various cultural backgrounds. In our desire to acknowledge Ontario's multicultural heritage, we have made the Senior Citizens' Month poster available in 32 languages.

One of the highlights of this year's celebration is an awards ceremony. My secretariat has initiated the province's first Senior Achievement Awards to recognize and reward annually, individual senior citizens for outstanding contributions made to the quality of life in Ontario. Since this is our bicentennial year, a time to reflect on this province's great heritage and progress, I believe it is appropriate that we honour individuals whose accomplishments have contributed so much to Ontario's growth and prosperity.

Our Premier (Mr. Davis) will present the Senior Achievement Awards to this year's distinguished recipients on June 20. In the near future I will be announcing the names of these honoured seniors who will have been chosen from across the province.

I hope all members will join me in this tribute to the seniors of Ontario by celebrating this very special month at local events in their own communities. As the month's theme imparts, we all benefit through the sharing of our time, our concern and our interest.

ORAL QUESTIONS

DAY CARE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. We read with some interest his speech to the conference, I believe yesterday, suggesting some new initiatives.

Why has he chosen to take the lead from the back seat three or four weeks after the budget with respect to proposing tax breaks for better day care? What are his specific recommendations

to deal with the Ontario tax system to give substance to those ideas he suggested yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) has not had the opportunity to read the remarks I shared with my colleagues from across the country. Those sessions were being held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the first capital of Upper Canada, and we had the benefit of the products from that area.

Mr. Sweeney: That was in 1791.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Listen, we do not need a tourist's travelogue.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That was only after the constitution. There were a lot of people here before 1791. I am surprised the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) as a school teacher would not know that. I hope this does not get back to Kitchener. Did he not hear about the American war of—the revolution?

Mr. Sweeney: It was in 1791, not 1784.

Mr. Breithaupt: I think 1784 was when the first Tory association was formed.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Actually, one of the reasons these comments were shared yesterday was at the request of the working group that planned the conference. Ontario is seen as a leader in this area. The federal government and the governments of all the other provinces asked Ontario to present this paper. I was very flattered, on behalf of the Ontario government, to have that opportunity. It was good to share with my colleagues—the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the status of women—some proposals about this very important area of child care.

We set out some options. The Leader of the Opposition will know that once one gets into the tax area the government of Canada is very much involved. We were talking about deductions, credits, a number of options. We indicated that we think all these matters should be explored because child care is a major concern.

Mr. Martel: Another study?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, not just another study. The speech from the throne made some reference to the fact that we are going to have an in-house review. This government wants to be on record as making it quite clear that child care is a major issue which faces us today, considering the changing face of the work force and new family lifestyles. We set out some propositions for

discussion at that conference which would include the opportunity to explore new partnerships and new arrangements to face up to the new challenges to ensure that women enjoy certain access to the work place.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That was a very full answer.

Mr. Martel: Full of hot air. Now to the issue.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: They were the very highest words. I think I understand. We have heard them before. I am concerned that the minister as the lead spokesman on women's issues for this province, making him one of the lead spokesmen in the country on that issue, would not be seen as just a windbag, just talking through his hat. I am concerned that he would give substance to those proposals.

Mindful as I am of his reputation at those great councils, why would he not have used his influence here in Ontario to suggest to his colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) that we should have a specific Ontario tax credit for child care in this province? Would that not have given more substance to his remarks? Would that not be the way to show leadership in this issue? Would that not be the way to bring the other provinces into line, so he could again take the lead?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think it should be recorded here that the Leader of the Opposition has access to the officials of the federal government with respect to this paper. I think the paper did set out a good many options. I would remind the member of the comment in the throne speech, setting out very clearly that we are going to review the whole question of the supply and quality of child care. A 12-ministry inter-ministerial committee is now doing this.

I was joined at the conference yesterday by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) and I was very pleased to have him there to share at first hand, as a minister with line responsibilities, the commitment of this government with respect to this study and the expansion in these areas.

I have no trouble with my colleagues throughout the country with respect to this matter. Indeed, they are very anxious to be part of the study group. I would be very happy to send a copy of those remarks to the Leader of the Opposition so that his research people would have an opportunity to read and summarize them for him for his next question.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a very specific question of the minister. He has the

power to do something about tax credits in Ontario. The government of Ontario has failed to move on enriching tax credits for seniors and in other areas. If the government is so concerned about using the tax system as a means of allowing more day care and some real shifting in priorities with respect to day care, why did the minister not push the Treasurer to use this budget as an opportunity to bring in some tax credits for people who are having to spend so much money for day care today and for people who cannot afford any accessible day care at all?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I can hardly credit that the leader of the third party is trying to suggest we have been less than generous in our response to the seniors of this province. I think that is certainly something he could well have left out of his preamble.

When we talk about this issue, the member knows full well the paper explores a number of possibilities to address the whole question of affordability. There are certain things that have to happen in this child care issue, and the Treasurer is very sensitive to these matters. Child care is an economic issue, and a very important economic issue as far as women are concerned. We have to get it out of the welfare mould and we have to make it quite clear we have to be involved with new arrangements and new partnerships.

Mr. McClellan: The minister has been reading our speeches.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is the road to Damascus.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: As we explore all these matters, I am encouraged by these questions because they help to keep a very high profile for a very important issue with which this government is associated and in which it is prepared to give leadership.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: When is this going to happen?

Mr. Rae: Has the minister any dates?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: I notice in his remarks the minister sensitively pointed out that salaries for qualified child care workers need to be improved. I am sure the minister is aware that the average salary in nonprofit child care centres in Metropolitan Toronto for 1983 for trained people was \$12,980 and for untrained people \$10,807, to be very precise. He recognizes that problem.

It is my understanding that at one point the Ministry of Community and Social Services had a salary enrichment fund for child care workers

and that fund was not spent. Why was that money not employed? Is the minister recommending to his colleagues the establishment of another salary enrichment fund to address that real problem he has pointed out but as yet has done nothing to correct?

Hon. Mr. Welch: When I came to that part in my notes dealing with the salary for child care workers, I did it with a great deal of feeling. That section of my notes was written by my daughter Elizabeth, who is a child care worker. She graduated from Niagara College as an early childhood educator and she has been drawing that whole issue to my attention, as have a number of them.

As far as I am concerned, it is as the paper states. Once again, I invite the member to read the paper because we do draw this to the attention of those who are involved in making some necessary changes in this area. I feel quite satisfied that he is going to be delighted with respect to what the outcome of all this will be in the fullness of time.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: If the minister needs a new speechwriter, I will give him my six-year-old son.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

ACID RAIN

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment with respect to acid rain in this province. No doubt he will be aware that last week the levels of acidity in the Ottawa area reached 3.8 on the pH scale, almost as acid as vinegar, an alarmingly high result. According to the press reports in the Ottawa Citizen, indications from the Chalk River area are that this acid rain emanated from Ontario.

I am also mindful of the comments the minister has been making publicly that public moneys are going to have to be expended in cleaning up acid rain. How is he going to address this very real problem when the evidence is so alarming? The evidence shows it is coming from Ontario. The minister's budget has been cut. How much money is he going to put into cleaning up acid rain in this province?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the budget of the Ministry of the Environment for this program has not been cut. It was never contemplated that the 1984 budget would be used for any kind of cleanup program. The announcements and the comments I have made with respect to the acid rain program, which we are working on co-

operatively with the federal government and the other provincial environment ministers, are specifically directed at industry in the first instance, which has an obligation to reduce emissions of sulphur dioxide and also public utilities such as Ontario Hydro.

In the case of Hydro, we have an order requiring emission cutbacks in 1986 and 1990. I do not know how the comment could be made that the level of acidity in the Ottawa area, to which the member is referring, emanated from Ontario sources unless the source of that information had access to the computer monitoring program of my ministry. To the best of my knowledge, we are the only ones who can come up with that kind of information. I was not advised the sources were in Ontario.

Mr. Peterson: I do not understand the minister's answer. Is he denying it is coming from Ontario? Is he saying it is coming from across our borders? Is he denying responsibility? Is he denying there is a very real problem with an alarmingly high rate? Evidence is accumulating everywhere in this province. He is no doubt aware of the Parry Sound area. I am sure he has been informed by his colleague that there is an abnormally high death rate among maple trees. Some experts believe that is strictly a function of acid rain. It is having an impact on the maple syrup business in that area.

Why will the minister not take the lead, given that Nanticoke is now generating some 22 per cent of Ontario's power and is becoming one of the larger emitters in this province because of problems with the nuclear program? Last year, it pumped out 255,000 tons of sulphur dioxide.

Why will the minister not at least take the lead with his own utility? Surely, that is his responsibility before he lectures industry. Why was that commitment not put into his budget for this year?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: In my earlier answer, I was suggesting the sources of sulphur dioxide in the area mentioned by the member, as well as Parry Sound, in all probability were complicated and aggravated by sources beyond the jurisdiction of Ontario. I want to remind the Leader of the Opposition that no jurisdiction in North America has taken as hard and as strong a stance with respect to a public utility as this province has.

That happens to be a reality and it happens to be a fact. There is no jurisdiction in North America that has a control order requiring a public utility to reduce its emissions such as the reductions being required of Ontario Hydro. The member asked us to take the lead. The reality is

no jurisdiction has taken more of a lead than this province in showing the way to reduce acid rain.

I want to say one further thing. We are meeting tomorrow in Ottawa, as the member is probably aware, with the federal government to see what contribution our federal colleagues may make with respect to the costs associated with an abatement program. I can assure the members that we are taking the lead on acid rain in this province.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the minister is simply this: Is the minister denying the fact that Ontario Hydro's acid gas emissions are now higher than they have ever been in the history of Ontario Hydro?

Is he denying the fact that those emissions are a major contribution to the acid rain problem in Ontario, that they are directly affecting the acidity that is taking place in several lakes across the province and that up until this time, the total effect of the government of Ontario's blabbing with Ontario Hydro has been nil? It has not reduced emissions at all; in fact, in the last year there has been an increase.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the third party is well aware that the current increase in sulphur dioxide emissions is only a temporary situation. The matter has been under active review on the part of my colleague the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) and myself. We are constantly reviewing Ontario Hydro emissions and the operations that may have any environmental impact. That temporary situation will abate very shortly and those emissions will come down. They are not constant. They do not reflect a trend on the part of Ontario Hydro, and they will only be in position for a very short time.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind that the minister feels the pollutants arrived at the site from outside of the province, I understand that the mix of pollutants has been discovered to be such that it would originate in Sudbury and other areas in Ontario.

Would he tell us, in the light of the fact that there is some upturn in the nickel industry market now, what sorts of programs are being developed in his ministry? In one of his earliest statements he told us he was endeavouring to put together a package to help finance the improvement of acid gas emission controls in industry in Sudbury.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I would hope there is going to be an upturn in the level of economic activity in Sudbury. They are under a control order, a maximum of 1,950 tons per day.

Mr. Elston: That is not the question.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The question the member asked is with respect to the financing package. That is the whole intent of the meeting I am attending in Ottawa tomorrow. I cannot tell the member today what the outcome of tomorrow's meeting is going to be.

Mr. Peterson: What are you putting on the table?

Mr. Boudria: Do not stand in the rain tomorrow, Andy. Look at what happened to Claude.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Whenever they are through, Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to carry on with the answer.

Mr. Roy: The minister is sensitive.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am glad to see the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) is here.

Mr. Speaker: Back to the answer, please.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I would be most pleased to have my esteemed critic from the official opposition informed of the outcome of the meetings after they have concluded in Ottawa tomorrow.

I will be meeting with the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Charles Caccia, and other ministers of the environment in the eastern part of Canada. We are attempting to come up with a package that will be applicable to the smelter industry, as well as to some of the public utilities that are causing us problems.

I do not deny the fact that some of the sulphur dioxide emissions from Ontario sources are affecting the environment, as are those other sources from outside the province. I want to say to members again that we are taking the lead. In all jurisdictions that one might look at, no jurisdiction has made a more forceful comment and more forceful advances with respect to the whole question of abatement than Ontario.

Take a look at one example. In the case of the smelter industry, we have already reduced Inco's acidic precipitation levels and emissions from a high of some 7,000 tons per day to the present level of 1,950. I think that is a rather commendable record.

2:50 p.m.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour concerning amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. The minister knows we have been debating them, both inside the House and publicly, for a number of years now. What I want to know is, what in the world is going on?

How is it that after all this public debate, the Workers' Compensation Board would conduct a poll among employers—only among employers—to find out their attitude towards proposed changes? Why would the board consult the Employers' Council on Workers' Compensation, according to press reports, and not the labour movement, the injured workers and the opposition members of this House?

How is it that the minister could talk one day about bringing in amendments and having them dealt with in this session, and say the next day that perhaps it is not going to happen at all? Can the minister tell us who is running the show concerning Workers' Compensation Act amendments? Is it the employers' council, the Workers' Compensation Board or the Ministry of Labour?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I think I heard about a dozen questions there. The significant one, I believe, was a comment that I had said we were not going to deal with it at all. I never said that on any occasion. I did not even come close to saying that.

I have said in this House on at least two occasions, and I have been quoted in the media on more frequent occasions, as saying that I have every intention of bringing the amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act in during this session. That still stands.

Mr. Laughren: The minister did not answer my first question. Is it his intention that these amendments will be dealt with in this session? Is that his intention?

Further, will he assure us that any amendments brought in will separate the more fundamental restructuring parts of the amendment from any increase in the level of benefits for injured workers?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Yes, I intend to deal with the amendments in this session. At this time I cannot assure the honourable member that the amendments will be introduced separately to the increase in the benefit structure.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall that in his report in November 1980, Professor Weiler had this to say about the permanent disability rating system, the so-called meat chart:

"This central ingredient of workers' compensation has now totally lost any legitimacy which it might have ever had. People no longer tolerate the inequities in individual cases which are produced by a system of average 'rough justice.'"

The minister will know that in a letter to the Kitchener-Waterloo and District Labour Council last month, he promised that his final package

would "reflect the very real needs of those injured workers and their families who require further assistance."

Can the minister stand in his place now and confirm that when he brings in his package of amendments on workers' compensation, he will deal with the matter of permanent disability ratings in this province in a meaningful and substantive way?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I believe the amendments that will be brought forward in due course in this session will address the concerns of the injured workers and those of the employers. We have spent a great deal of time on this very serious matter, and I am not prepared at this time to indicate or to debate the various amendments that will be introduced.

Mr. Laughren: It becomes clearer now as to why the minister evaded the question put by my colleague the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella) earlier when he asked about separating the structural amendments of the board from the benefits increase.

Besides, the minister still has not told us who is running the show over there. Why is it he consults only with employers when it comes to amendments?

Finally, does the minister not understand that if he does not separate the increased benefits in the act from the other fundamental amendments, what will be perceived out there, and in my view accurately perceived, will be that this minister is continuing that long tradition of playing games with injured workers' level of benefits in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am in a relatively good mood today, so I am going to ignore that last comment, but the honourable member did have a point there. He repeated a question he had brought forward in his first question today. I did not answer it at that time; I had intended to, and I am glad he reminded me of it. That is the matter of consultation.

We have consulted with so many groups, so many people for so many months and we have not consulted with any group at the expense of any other. Everybody has had equal treatment. I have never refused a meeting with any group or individual who has wanted to talk to me about the Workers' Compensation Act and its amendments.

Mr. Rae: The minister should know that is not the point; the point is that the Workers' Compensation Board took a poll of employers.

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question was to the Minister of the Environment, who was in the House until 30 seconds ago and, to my surprise, has just stepped out. It concerns the quality of drinking water in Lake Ontario and the case that is being argued at this hour by counsel for the government of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you could place another question.

Mr. Rae: He is right here. I wonder if I could ask him that question, since right at this very time counsel for the government of Ontario is making a case in Buffalo. I would like to ask the minister if he can explain the discrepancy between two very simple statements.

The first is a statement the minister made in this Legislature on April 10: "We are definitely not satisfied that the proposed cleanup measures are adequate and we are expressing that dissatisfaction in the strongest possible terms to Judge Curtin."

I wonder how he would square that statement with the fact that in the lengthy brief that has been filed by his counsel before Judge Curtin there is no mention of the court's disallowing or disapproving the agreement; there is mention only of the court's modifying the agreement.

If he is really going to be expressing his disapproval and, to use his words, his dissatisfaction in the strongest possible terms, why is he going in and asking only for a mere modification of the agreement when clearly a disapproval or rejection of the agreement, which fails to provide for a cleanup of the site, is in the best interests of the people of this province and of the four million Ontarians who rely on Lake Ontario for their drinking water?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the position of my ministry and of the lawyers representing us in that particular case has been consistent. We indicated that the short-term measures associated with the cleanup program proposed by Occidental Chemical were less than satisfactory; and although they would be appropriate for a short period of time, in the long term they were not satisfactory to Ontario. That is the position we have held consistently, and that is why we have indicated we are not satisfied with the short-term cleanup proposed by Occidental Chemical.

Mr. Rae: With great respect to the minister, he has not answered my question. Why, if he is so dissatisfied with the agreement, has he not asked that it be rejected, unless it provides for the specific items he says he is so concerned about?

Specifically in that regard, why did the ministry's counsel fail to call the expert witness, Dr. Grisak, who, according to the minister's previous discussions here, is somebody of great expertise who would have been able to inform the court on the question of the cleanup of the site? Why did he not adjourn the hearing for a lengthy period of time after the evidence came in from Occidental Chemical in order that the people of Ontario would have the best possible case made on their behalf?

The problem Judge Curtin has today is that, regardless of the arguments that are put before him by counsel, counsel can refer only to evidence that has been put before the court. There is much evidence that is not before the court, and the people of Ontario are all the poorer for it.

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The final oral arguments in this case were heard on May 30. That being the case, I want to assure members once again, as I have in the past in response to earlier questions from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), that we are asking for a change in the agreement, rather than a modification, to bring about a total cleanup of that site.

This means the removal of the contaminated soil and the ultimate treatment based on the best-known technology available in that jurisdiction. That has been our position. I do not understand why the member continues to press the case, to imply that Ontario is taking anything other than the most substantial line of defence we possibly can to protect our interests. That is exactly what we are doing.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, as the minister realizes, my leader pressed this issue several times before and asked the minister to do certain things. One of those things was to prepare his witnesses in a much better and more thorough way. Has the minister learned his lesson about refusing to co-operate and deal in an above-board manner with the public interest groups that are much better informed and prepared to proceed on behalf of the public interest in Ontario with respect to this hearing?

The groups had counsel who had the expertise and the experience of appearing in front of this very same judge in another hearing. Will the minister admit to this House now that he is planning to use all the resources of this province, including the expertise of the public interest groups that know this issue far better than anyone in his ministry does or could hope to do?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I have never heard any comment in this House that is more misleading than this suggestion that there are public interest groups far more informed about this issue than the experts in my ministry. I refute that statement. It is so totally incorrect as to be almost laughable.

Mr. Bradley: It is laughable in the case the minister put forward. That was laughable.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: As soon as the member for St. Catharines is finished, I will continue. He has been very interested in this issue and has yet to ask a question about it.

In the case of the evidence we were prepared to submit on the part of our expert witness, I know the member is aware, but failed to mention in the context of his question, that the evidence being presented on the part of Occidental Chemical was changed at the last minute by that firm during the course of the hearings in New York state.

Further, the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States was not aware that evidence was being changed. The level, the volume and the amount of contamination were lowered very considerably with regard to the evidence placed before Judge Curtin. As a result of that evidence being changed before the court, we withdrew our witness to review our position more thoroughly. The position we have taken has been consistent and proper.

If the public interest groups to which the member refers want to co-operate with Ontario and make a contribution by dialoguing with us, I indicated during meetings I had with a number of public interest groups that we would welcome their input. They decided not to do that because, for reasons known only to Judge Curtin, he determined, quite justifiably, that the province of Ontario should be the representative of the people of Ontario. That is the position we are in, representing the people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the minister may want to reconsider the remark he inadvertently made suggesting the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston) had made a misleading statement.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Could I delete that word and insert "ill-informed"?

Mr. Speaker: Whatever. I think you should just withdraw it.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because the government of Ontario has a unique role at the hearings that so many observers of the scene and so many of us in this province are disheartened by its failure to put forward a world-class case on a problem that affects the

quality of the drinking water of four million Ontarians. The government has had a chance. It has had a job to do. The overwhelming evidence so far is that it has not done the job. The minister has had a chance; he has had a job to do. The overwhelming evidence so far is that he has not done the job and his ministry has disappointed literally millions of Ontarians who have a stake in the future.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: If, coming into this House, he said he wanted to play such an important role in the dispute, can he explain why one witness was withdrawn and why another key witness who testified as to what was going on had not even visited the S area site, a so-called expert who had not even been at the site and was torn apart on the stand because he had not been there?

Why did his counsel argue at two points in his initial argument to the court that the government of Ontario intended to play a relatively minor role in the proceedings? If the minister is really interested in protecting the drinking water of this province, why did he have his counsel go in and say all the government wanted was a fairly limited role, a relatively minor role, in an issue that affects the drinking water and the future of water in Ontario for decades to come?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, Ontario or my ministry is in no way taking a minor role on the quality of the water that is being made available to the people of Ontario. To represent our interests in New York state, we have engaged one of the most reputable and well-recognized environmental law firms in the entire United States. Such esteemed environmental groups as the Sierra Club in the United States have hired the same law firm.

I cannot tell the member what the outcome of this case is going to be, whether we are going to win or lose. That is something I cannot tell him at this time. I can tell him our position has been consistent. We have a well-recognized, reputable law firm and we intend to pursue the best interests of Ontario in the courts in New York state to the extent we are able and to the extent that is possible. If the leader of the third party will listen, since I am answering his question, we will do that to the best of our ability and to the extent that our resources are available for this case.

BEACH POLLUTION

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment concerning the limitation and the extent of his resources and

what that allows him to do with respect to the beaches in Toronto and throughout the province.

I have information that indicates the minister is using a good amount of the money allocated for the cleanup of beaches to manicure those beaches and make them attractive on the shore for people to visit. I understand that will not deal much with the quality of water being discharged into Lake Ontario.

I would like to find out from the minister how much money he is putting into the cleanup effort along the Toronto beach area this year and how much he is projecting over the next several years to clean up the water quality, bearing in mind that the municipality of East York needs to spend about \$35 million to fix its sewers, York needs about \$90 million, Toronto this year alone needs \$22 million, and that there are some 79 other beaches in the province which need efforts made to clean up their water quality. Can the minister provide us with those figures with respect to his limited resources?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say, and I know the honourable member will be most happy to hear, that the request that was made to my ministry on the part of Metro Toronto, with respect to assistance for a two-year program to assist with beach cleanups in the area the member is talking about amounted to some \$3 million over two years.

We met every single, solitary dime of the request on the part of Metro Toronto for that two-year cleanup program. What more can this ministry do than to meet 100 per cent of the request on the part of the lead government, the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, which is primarily responsible for this problem? We have met every request it has made.

Mr. Elston: The effort so far directed to cleaning up the quality of the water along the beachfront has been to build walls to extend the flow of the Humber River past the beach area and has been to extend the outfall to a deeper portion of Lake Ontario.

Mr Speaker: Question, please.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Elston: Would the minister not agree that by proceeding to dilute the poor quality effluent coming from those outfalls and from the Humber River he is merely postponing a catastrophe which, in the long run, will cost the citizens of this province and others several millions of dollars to clean up? When will he get to the root of the problem rather than trying the same thing that was tried in Sudbury, and that is to develop a

superstack to dilute instead of to cure the problem?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Of the total amount of \$3 million, which is only the provincial contribution to the beach cleanup, the project the honourable member refers to represents \$150,000. The amount of money being expended by Metropolitan Toronto as well as by my ministry well exceeds \$10 million. As he can see, the whole matter of additional dispersion as a result of extending the wall along the side of the Humber River and to disperse some of the effluent farther into Lake Ontario is a very minor part of that entire undertaking.

I might add that the environmental experts who have studied this particular proposal, which calls for the effluent to be dispersed farther out into Lake Ontario, have indicated that this is quite a sound and proper principle and that it will avoid some of the contamination from entering around the shoreline of the beaches where most of the problem occurred last summer. The reality is that this is quite an appropriate direction for this entire project to take, namely, to disperse some of the contamination farther out into Lake Ontario.

In addition to that, the question was raised as to whether or not we will be providing additional moneys for specific cleanup programs. I want to assure the member that we have studies going on now that are very detailed, very specific and quite expensive—these are in co-operation with Toronto—to determine exactly what areas we can control with respect to further discharge problems we have along the Humber and Don rivers. That is an ongoing program, and we intend to be involved at some future point in assisting, as we always have in the past, bringing about this cleanup.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the city of York, which is part of Metropolitan Toronto and which has a major problem with sewage construction, has plans on the books for sewage separation in order to deal with the fundamental problem that is causing the pollution. It does not have adequate funding; it cannot get adequate funding either from the provincial government or from anywhere else. That is the root cause of the problem.

When is the minister going to face up to it and, rather than get cuts from the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) in his budget, which affect his ability to deliver services to the people of this province and to provide clean water, get involved in the kind of capital expenditure that will put people to work, provide jobs for construction workers and

solve a major environmental problem at the same time?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, what the honourable leader of the third party is asking for is a change of policy on the part of my ministry. In fact, we have not been involved in those sewer separation projects in the past. They have been—

Mr. McClellan: We have seen the results.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The results are, to quote the Minister of the Environment of Quebec, who made a statement on this particular point just the other day in the National Assembly in Quebec—

Mr. McClellan: Does he swim at the beach?.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: —it will take Quebec 20 years at the very least to catch up with Ontario in this kind of environmental control program. He was complimenting this province because we happen to have the most advanced environmental control programs of any province in the entire country in place right at the present time.

MILK PRICES

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have here a petition signed by 4,000 residents of the city of Sault Ste. Marie with respect to the price of milk there and the fact that a town that at one time had six dairies now has only one.

I would ask the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), how he feels about the fact that residents in Sault Ste. Marie are spending \$2.22 on average for two litres of two per cent milk while in Toronto it is \$2.06 and in Montreal it is \$1.55. How does the Premier feel about that fairness as distributed across the province and across the country? How does he feel about the fact that Labatt's now controls 50 per cent of the dairies in Ontario and the rest of the industry is concentrated heavily in two other companies? What is he doing about this monopoly which is ripping off the public of the province? It is ripping off those people who have only one dairy from which they can purchase the most basic commodity, milk.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour to answer the member. I am not going to get into a debate as to what number of dairies are owned by any particular organization.

Mr. Martel: They might ruin your ball park.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Pardon? I cannot hear the member.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I always want to listen to the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). He is so cogent, so relative, so polite.

Mr. Martel: That is not like you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am sorry, I cannot hear the member.

Mr. Martel: The Premier should turn up his hearing aid.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would be delighted to but the member should speak up a little louder.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Take the marbles out of your mouth.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am wondering if the member for York South (Mr. Rae) can discipline the member for Sudbury East. I guess that is totally beyond his capacity. That is increasingly obvious day after day.

Mr. Samis: Many have tried.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I cannot hear the member.

Mr. McClellan: You must be getting old.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly I am maturing. The member should try the same thing. It would be good for him.

Mr. Speaker: Now to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I did not quite hear the figures as quoted by the member as to the price per quart. If he can translate it into quarts, I would understand it more readily.

I understand from his question that his concern is the price per quart or litre for milk in the Sault which is higher than it is, say, in Metropolitan Toronto or in the city of Montreal. I cannot comment on that because I have not had any running account as to the price levels of milk in the city of Montreal over any period of time.

I am sure the member has kept a running record, but that it does not reflect a particular sale on milk at a particular chain in the city of Montreal on any given date. I assume that it is not a constant price for the last four or five months. Is he assuring me it is? Of course, he is not. He does not know.

There have always been price differentials on some commodities between northern Ontario and parts of southern Ontario. There have been differences in price commodities between this province and Quebec. He might select some other commodity. He might just check what the

price of gasoline is per litre in Montreal vis-à-vis Toronto—perhaps even Sault Ste. Marie. He may find the price for that commodity may be modestly higher. I am not sure of that, but it could be.

I think it is fair to state that this government has always recognized the concerns expressed by residents of northern Ontario as they relate to the cost of certain basis commodities. I would be quite prepared to receive that petition, although these issues have been brought forward to us in a very constructive, positive and sensitive way by the member from Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Ramsay). But if the member wishes, if it is the purpose of his question to present the petition to the House and if he is using this occasion to do so, I would be delighted to receive it.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, since the Premier is talking about sales it might interest him to know that the price quoted by my leader regarding the retail price of milk in Sault Ste. Marie today is as a result of a sale that is now going on in Sault Ste. Marie. In fact, that price is still very much above the retail price in Toronto and in Montreal.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wildman: Is the Premier not aware of one of the main reasons for the difference in the retail price of milk in Quebec and Ontario? One of the main reasons is that the Quebec government not only controls the farm-gate price, as we do here through the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, but also sets a maximum and a minimum retail price for milk. As a result, retail milk prices are much lower in Quebec.

Is the Premier prepared to have his government look at that proposal as one for Ontario so that we can moderate the price of milk at the retail level for consumers in this province as has been done in Quebec?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member is suggesting we implement certain policies that exist in Quebec as they impact upon consumers and producers, then he should recite the whole spectrum of what programs Quebec has. He can single out milk or one or two other commodities, but if he wishes to persuade the people he represents that they would be better served by the policies that exist in our sister province as they relate to their cost of living and tax levels, I wish him luck because he will never succeed.

He might also check the price of a litre of milk in Winnipeg for me because I really do not know what it is.

Mr. Rae: It is cheaper.

Mr. Martel: In Winnipeg it is a lot cheaper.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, the Premier has agreed that there is a price differential between the north and the south in so far as milk is concerned and, beyond that, in so far as other food items or commodities are concerned. Will he not agree that the people in northern Ontario deserve a tax credit to help them accommodate the higher costs they have to pay?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, this government has always recognized the differential in terms of cost, although not necessarily as it relates to individual commodities. However, the differential has been reflected in the grant structures of this government. For instance, the differential in terms of cost has been reflected in the grant structures of the Ministry of Education and of other ministries of this government, whether for municipal services or in some cases the cost of commodities.

We endeavoured, and I think with some success, to address this as it related to the differential in the cost of fuel, for example. We have used the differential in the licence fee to offset what we know is a differential between the cost in southern Ontario and that in the north, primarily because of transportation and partially because of the distribution system.

We recognize this by and large in the price of what some would describe as an essential commodity—some alcoholic beverages. The honourable member may not agree that it is essential, and I may not agree that it is essential, but it is a commodity used by a large percentage of the population. We have been able to do this because we have some greater measure, not of control but of involvement.

It is much more difficult to do it with respect to fresh fruit and produce where we as a government do not have any involvement as we do with respect to tax levels on the price of beer. It makes it a far more complicated issue.

I can only assure the member that this government has demonstrated a sensitivity to the concerns of the people in north and will continue to do so.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. Because of the difference between the minister's figures and those of the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) concerning the cost of greater accessibility of health services to northern Ontario and other

areas, will the minister make available to the House documented evidence of what the true cost would be?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the House on Tuesday, and I guess even prior to that in response to a question on Orders and Notices placed by the member for Port Arthur, there has not been any formal study undertaken with respect to the cost implications.

Mr. Stokes: That is, if he has the money.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The honourable member can moan and groan all he likes, but I have been forthright about that from the very beginning.

Mr. Rae: The minister made it up.

Mr. McClellan: He made it up.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I did not make it up.

Mr. Rae: Where did it come from?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I also explained in the House, although it was after the departure of the member for Port Arthur the other day, how the figure was arrived at as a rough calculation. I indicated that it was a rough calculation. It was a first run at it, not a detailed study. I think it was a very honest effort to get a rough estimate of the cost. We took the number of hospital patients discharged to points outside the region in which the hospital they were in was located and multiplied that by an average cost of transportation.

I was interested to read in the newspaper just today, I guess, where the member for Port Arthur was quoted as using an average cost factor that was even higher than the one we had used. If we had applied his cost figure, our estimates would have been even higher than those I have presented.

Mr. Hennessy: I find it difficult to believe that the minister would make a guess on such an important program as this. I think it is his responsibility as a minister of the government to document his facts and present them to the people. Then they would know what the true costs are going to be.

If he is going to guess, I can guess that it is going to snow tomorrow or that it is going to rain, but it does not mean it is true. With all due respect, I ask the minister for a documented report. The people of northwestern Ontario deserve to be told the truth about this matter. A guess is not sufficient as far as I am concerned.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If I were in a position to contemplate seriously undertaking major new expenditures to cover transportation costs other than those under emergency circumstances as

part of the health care costs of this province, one of the first things I would do would be to commission a detailed study of the cost involved. However, I think it would be money unwisely spent since I already know roughly what the cost implications would be from the preliminary work that has been done.

The money is simply not available to undertake such a program. I am sure I would be criticized by the members of this House, particularly in the opposition, for expending government funds to do a study that might ultimately sit on the shelf until some time in the future when a program such as this might be seriously contemplated. I would be accused of wasting the taxpayers' money on studies that have no immediate application.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, as this has been a central issue in this Legislature and with his predecessors since at least 1967, I want to ask the minister to explain why the Ministry of Health has undertaken no such study. Can he tell us how he can decide what his priorities are in instituting programs when he has admitted today that he has done no study of the cost implications of such a program?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member is just playing games with words.

Mr. Foulds: The minister is the one who plays games with words.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Back to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think there is nothing wrong with "playing games with words." I do not think that is unparliamentary.

Mr. Foulds: Let us not play games with the issue.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member heard my answer the first time. I was being honest with him. I do not think any further response is necessary simply because he reiterated the question and changed the words around a little bit.

Mr. Foulds: The minister is not going to do the study because he decided he is not going to do the program, but he does not know whether he can do the program without a study.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I know full well from the preliminary work that has been done that the cost implications are such that I simply cannot seriously contemplate undertaking such a pro-

gram at present. If the member were being really open with himself and with the people in northern Ontario, as well as with the people in this Legislature, he would admit he knows that as well.

3:30 p.m.

CASE AT METROPOLITAN GRACE HOSPITAL

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. Has he been made aware of the case of 70-year-old Wilfred Bellehumeur, who entered Metropolitan Grace Hospital in Windsor on Monday, May 14, and who was strapped into his bed on Wednesday, May 16, because the staff were too busy to watch him wander. He died the following Sunday, May 20, of an aneurysm which, according to the coroner, had not been properly searched for by the hospital staff. If the minister has been informed of this case, has he taken steps to look into the procedures used?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, yes, I am aware of the case, although I hasten to point out that I am not aware of the conclusions stated by the honourable member in his question. I urge him to be very cautious about quoting conclusions if they have not been received directly from a person such as the coroner. If they are coming from other individuals, there is a possibility they might be somewhat biased by the perception of the individuals involved.

I am aware that there is a controversy over the circumstances. My information is that when the gentleman was placed in constraints—for his own protection, according to the staff at the hospital—it was done with the authority and under the direction of his physician. It was not done arbitrarily. It did not relate to anything such as staffing levels. The staffing levels at that hospital are substantially higher than is generally the case at such facilities; so it was not a question of shortage of staff.

I understand the gentleman had a tendency to wander. When the members of his family objected in the matter, the restraints were removed, at which time the gentleman began to wander further and at the doctor's request they were reimposed.

Mr. Newman: This man was admitted to the hospital complaining of stomach pains which, according to the coroner, would have revealed the aneurysm that ultimately caused his death had the proper investigative procedures been followed. Further, the man was actually strapped to

his bed because the staff were too busy to watch over him.

Unless the minister agrees with that kind of treatment for a 70-year-old man, will he undertake to investigate this case and report back on the legitimacy of such procedures as were followed by the staff of this hospital in the case of Wilfred Bellehumeur?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think the first step would be for me to await a copy of the coroner's report. I must say that if the coroner has gone on record making statements such as have been quoted in the House this afternoon, I am not yet aware of that. I shall certainly undertake to review the coroner's report and at that point decide whether any further action is appropriate.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: When the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) asked his question of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton), and when that was followed by a supplementary from the third party, I submit that our party should have had the opportunity to ask a supplementary. If that is the case—

Mr. Breough: You have to stand up to do it.

Mr. Wrye: He did stand up.

Mr. Van Horne: I will ignore the interjections.

The point is, if this issue is one of concern to all of us, and it certainly is to this party, we should have had the opportunity to make that point.

Mr. Speaker: I point out to the honourable member that supplementaries are asked at the discretion of the Speaker. Because time was running down—I think we were at four minutes and 27 seconds—I thought two supplementaries were adequate. I recognized the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman), who I am sure you will agree does not get as much opportunity to participate as some other members.

Generally speaking, you are absolutely right; I would have given you the opportunity had there been the time to do so.

Mr. Van Horne: For clarification, it was not a matter of whether we had the right to ask the question—

Mr. Speaker: No, you do not have the right.

Mr. Van Horne: Does a member not have a right to ask a question?

Mr. Speaker: As I said before, supplementaries are at the discretion of the Speaker. In

that particular case, I felt two supplementaries were sufficient, given the amount of time that was left and to treat everybody as fairly as I could in spreading out the use of question period.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Perhaps I can seek some clarification from you. You indicated earlier that you wanted to follow a consistent pattern. It is my understanding that on occasions when members of the government party ask private members' questions, and you allow them one supplementary, it has been traditional in the three years and some months I have been in this place that each opposition party is given one supplementary. If you are now telling us that you are changing that rule, I would be interested to know that.

My understanding is that each opposition party has been given one opportunity to ask a supplementary on those issues. I simply want to know whether that is the rule or whether the rule is being changed.

Mr. Speaker: As you are aware, and I do not want to be stuffy about this, this matter is not covered specifically by the standing orders. It has been my practice in the past to recognize all members who wish to ask a supplementary. But given the fact that one of my responsibilities here is to protect the rights of the minority—and, quite frankly, I see the back-benchers on all sides of the House perhaps as a minority—I thought it only fair, given the amount of time left and having listened to two supplementaries that I felt adequately addressed the problem, to recognize another member with a new question.

I am not changing the tactics; it was a discretionary call. Given the time, I thought it was the fair thing to do.

PETITIONS

FAMILY BENEFITS ACT REGULATIONS

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 25 residents of Ontario concerning the interpretation by the Ministry of Community and Social Services of regulation 424/82 under the Family Benefits Act.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the electors of Essex North riding, are aware that at least five provinces in Canada recognize the public service role of independent schools with various forms of financial grants. Why does Ontario not do the same? As taxpayers, we contribute to the education of all children, but the children at Lakeview Montessori School are not permitted to benefit from our taxes.

"We ask that you change this situation with recognition and funding for independent schools in Ontario."

It is signed by 50 people in Essex North.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by approximately 100 people.

"We, the undersigned, support the proposed legislation on the Women's Economic Equality Act and urge you to pass it into law."

This refers to Bill 15, a private member's public bill that was introduced on March 27, 1984, by the member for York South (Mr. Rae) and provides for equal pay for work of equal value and mandatory affirmative action.

I support his petition, which is addressed "To Bill Davis and the Conservative government." I take great pleasure in sending it across the floor to the Premier. Unfortunately, he has left the House for the moment, but he will find it on his desk when he returns.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Kolyn from the standing committee on administration of justice reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of the Solicitor General be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Ministry administration program, \$6,679,000; public safety program, \$26,936,800; policing services program, \$10,729,400; and Ontario Provincial Police program, \$262,243,200.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. McLean from the standing committee on general government presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill 54, An Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

3:40 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Gregory, first reading of Bill 88, An Act to amend the Financial Administration Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, as earlier recommended to this House by the standing committee on public accounts, an amendment in this bill will clarify the right of the crown to charge and collect interest on overdue amounts owed to the crown. The amendment will apply where a particular statute or arrangement does not deal with the question of interest to be paid for late payment of a debt owed to the crown.

In addition, the bill proposes a number of housekeeping amendments to bring the act more in tune with modern financial business practices.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALDIMAND-NORFOLK AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Andrewes moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, seconded by Hon. Ms. Fish, first reading of Bill 89, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk Act.

Motion agreed to.

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Andrewes moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, seconded by Hon. Ms. Fish, first reading of Bill 90, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act.

Motion agreed to.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF SUDBURY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Andrewes moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, seconded by Hon. Ms. Fish, first reading of Bill 91, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing bills to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act, the Regional

Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk Act and the District Municipality of Muskoka Act. Each of these bills provides for the restructuring of the municipal hydro utilities in their respective regions and districts. These bills provide for the functioning of municipal utilities on the same basis as restructuring carried out in 10 other regions and will complete the process that began in 1977.

CITY OF WINDSOR ACT

Mr. Newman moved, seconded by Mr. McGuigan, first reading of Bill Pr24, An Act respecting the City of Windsor.

Motion agreed to.

NEW FARM IMPLEMENT BUYERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Boudria moved, seconded by Mr. McGuigan, first reading of Bill 92, An Act to protect the Purchasers of New Farm Implements.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, this bill would entitle the owner of a defective farm implement to obtain a refund of the purchase price during the warranty period as defined or, if the machine is less than two years old or has been driven for less than 800 hours, an equivalent farm implement in replacement.

Where a defective farm implement is out of service for repairs during the warranty period for three days or more and the manufacturer or dealer fails to supply the owner with a replacement unit, the manufacturer or dealer is responsible for any crop losses during that period.

This is a farm implement lemon law.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

AMENDMENTS TO LINE FENCES ACT

Mr. Sheppard, seconded by Mr. McLean, moved resolution 24:

That in the opinion of this House more equitable settlements are desirable when awards made under the Line Fences Act are appealed, and in order to effect such, this House supports amendments to the act that would replace the current appeal system with an independent appeals tribunal.

Mr. Speaker: Before you commence, I would like to remind the honourable member you have up to 20 minutes for your presentation and you may reserve any portion of that time for your windup.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Speaker, I will probably use 14 or 15 minutes and save some time for the end.

I am glad to have an opportunity to move this resolution, which, if acted on, will result in a more fair and flexible piece of legislation. Ontario has had legislation dealing with fences between properties for a very long time. In fact, we have had laws on that topic in this province since 1834, well before Confederation. From time to time, these laws have been changed to cope with new developments and changing times. I believe the Line Fences Act needs changing again. I understand it was amended substantially in 1874, 1913 and 1979.

The change I am proposing is not major, but it is one I feel we must make. I know it will be welcomed by many, particularly rural, Ontario residents. Not only have individual farmers demanded it, but the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario would also like to see changes. I believe this resolution provides the changes these organizations and the people they represent would like to see.

The Line Fences Act is a piece of legislation with which some members may not be familiar. Simply put, the act spells out the fence building and maintenance responsibilities of adjoining property owners. The history of the act is based on the principle that each neighbour should normally contribute equally to building and maintaining a fence along the property line.

3:50 p.m.

The act also realizes that there can be circumstances when one property owner should contribute more than half the cost, and the act provides for such circumstances. The way this is done is through the position of fence-viewer.

The position of fence-viewer is an old and well-established office here in Ontario. Fence viewers were created in 1793 by the first provincial parliament of Upper Canada. Under the act, municipalities appoint people as fence-viewers. When two neighbours cannot decide exactly where a fence should go, or on the kind of fence that should be put up, or on splitting the cost, then the fence-viewers are called in.

When neighbours cannot come to agreement, one of them will register a complaint with the municipal clerk. Fence-viewers will then investigate the complaint and make an award. A fence-viewer can vary the costs of the award depending on factors, such as the suitability of the fence to the needs of the property owners, the nature of the terrain and the nature of local fences. I am sure that in urban areas costs are usually divided on a 50:50 basis, but in rural Ontario this might not always be the case.

A farmer who has to look after a fence running through bush or swamp land will obviously have higher costs and more problems than the farmer who has to build a fence on cleared land. Fence-viewers can therefore divide the costs so one person does not suffer too much of the cost burden. If one of the parties involved does not want to meet his or her share of the fence-viewer's ruling, then the municipality has the right to have the work done anyway and charge the property owner on his taxes.

Up to this point, I believe the system has worked fairly well. The act, however, does provide the right to appeal the fence-viewer's ruling if one of the property owners is not satisfied. The decision can be appealed in small claims court and I think this is where the problem begins.

Recently, completely lopsided rulings have been made by judges. I think this may not be due to anything more than a lack of knowledge of the principles behind the act and a lack of experience in dealing with such cases. It may also be due to a legal interpretation of the act. Judges very seldom get a chance to judge an appeal under this act and can be forgiven if, in many cases, they are not aware of historical obligations, community expectations or the intent of the act and its administration.

I do not believe all judges in small claims court avoid the responsibilities of neighbours regarding fences. There are also instances where the joint responsibility of neighbours to maintain a fence has been recognized in court. I would like to quote briefly from a judgement made about two years ago which illustrates this point. The judgement followed an action brought by a cash crop farmer against his neighbour for damage to crops as a result of livestock getting through a fence and destroying some corn and soybeans.

The judge said: "The evidence is clear that a part of the fence through which the animals came is that which is required to be maintained either by agreement, or by a decision of some other authority or by the plaintiff himself."

The plaintiff, who was responsible for maintaining the section of the fence through which the animals came, was suing because the animals came through the fence. He was alleging that the fence for which he was responsible was inadequate. The fact that one property owner has livestock and the other does not should not necessarily require that the livestock owner pay the entire amount of the costs of construction.

A judge cannot foresee that the property owner with no livestock might not go out the next year

and buy some after a neighbour has put up and paid for the fence. The only fair way to deal with this situation is to ensure that more awards split costs evenly. Unfortunately some appeals have not gone that way. In fact, judges have ruled that 100 per cent of the cost should be paid by the property owner with livestock and that the land owner with no livestock should pay nothing.

This situation can only get worse as more and more judges come from urban backgrounds and as more city people buy farm land. We have a situation where people from urban centres buy farm land and move to the farm. However, if they do not keep livestock, many do not see the need to maintain their fences, and they therefore refuse to pay half the cost of maintaining or building fences.

I do not know if in such a case the cost should be exactly half and half between neighbours, but is it not just as clear that the legislation was never intended to force one property owner to bear the full cost of fencing? To a farmer this could mean a great deal of money. However, 100 per cent decisions have been made, and I believe the situation is serious enough to require a change in the legislation.

The municipalities, the farmers and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture have made the need for change known to both the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, which is responsible for the Line Fences Act.

I hope the members who will speak on this motion will be able to contribute to finding a solution to this problem. As my motion states, I believe the best solution would be to remove the appeals from the small claims court to an independent appeals tribunal. My reasons for this are simple, and I hope I will not take too much time to explain them.

There are essentially two ways of solving the problem. The first is to leave the appeals system the way it is but to change the act to specify that one property owner cannot be made to pay more than a specific percentage of the costs. In other words, this would establish a maximum-minimum cost-sharing system.

The second system is the one I am proposing: that is, an independent appeals tribunal. I think this is the best method for a number of reasons. We have to remember that this act applies to all of Ontario, both urban and rural; it applies equally to cattlemen in Grey county, to cash crop farmers in Essex county and to condominium owners in Toronto. Quite obviously, fencing problems can

and do vary quite considerably from one part of the province to another.

There are also long-standing historical obligations and attitudes in different parts of the province. I have been told that in Grey county it has been basically understood that each neighbour will pay an equal share in building a fence but that in Niagara, for instance, the traditions are somewhat different. Because of these local expectations the court decision back in January regarding an appeal on the award in St. Vincent township made a very large impact on the rural community. To judge from the reaction, the decision went completely against local traditions and expectations.

Obviously there must be a fair degree of flexibility in the legislation. Until recently I believe the small claims courts were able to provide that flexibility quite well; they do not now. I also think that a few minimum-maximum cost specifications in the act would not provide the required flexibility; an independent appeals tribunal would. Such independent tribunals would retain the flexibility of making awards of different proportions as the case might require.

For example, if a farmer or a property owner brought in very exotic animals with special fencing needs, it might make sense to have that person pay almost the full share of the fencing. A tribunal would be able to assess that and make the appropriate decision. A minimum-maximum limit in the legislation simply could not encompass all the possible circumstances, while a tribunal could deal with each case separately.

There is another advantage to a tribunal. One option is to make the members of a tribunal local appointees. As such, they would be an appeal body beyond the fence-viewers, but they would also be people with a better understanding of their area. As such, they would be more aware of local practices than a judge. In that case the tribunal would be able to base its decisions on local history, traditions and expectations rather than on interpretations of the meaning of the act.

4 p.m.

In short, a tribunal would be able to retain the flexibility that is certainly required under the act while at the same time meeting community needs and expectations.

The other option for a tribunal is to have just the one for the entire province. There are only about 20 appeals each year. A single tribunal could therefore be in a position to become expert on the topic, while local tribunals could find it more difficult. I understand there were approximately 54 appeals last year.

I also do not believe a tribunal will be more bureaucratic than a court or even more difficult to operate. I do not think appeals arise all that often, which is a tribute to the good work done by fence-viewers. On the other hand, the rulings regarding Grey county may well give rise to more appeals as some land owners realize they can get away with not paying for line fences.

I think that acting on this resolution will free up the judges and allow them to deal with matters they are more familiar with. In fact, I believe people will not only be more comfortable appearing before a tribunal than before a judge in court, but also that appeals might take place more quickly.

We all recognize that arguments over fencing can make for bad relationships between neighbours. The faster the problem gets resolved the easier it will become to patch up relationships. A tribunal should help in this case. I hope these considerations and views are taken into account when the decision to draft the amendment is made.

I would like to cover a few more areas that could be considered in such a bill and in its administration. In view of the important but relatively small number of cases, periodic training or information sessions should be held for local municipal staff and fence-viewers. One was held in the town of Cobourg about six weeks ago.

It has also been brought to my attention that there is some need to reword the appeal time period section of the legislation to remove any doubt as to when the period ends.

Finally, it might be advisable to ensure the legislation states that the act is established on the basic principle that the cost of fencing should normally be shared equally among neighbouring property owners. After all, a line fence provides other benefits to both property owners than just fencing in cattle. A line fence benefits both by marking the property, hindering trespassing and increasing the valuation of the property.

Less than two weeks ago I was talking to the Honourable Bill Stewart who wrote to me. There are several members here who will remember his many contributions to agriculture during his term as minister. In his letter he expressed his interest in receiving a copy of today's Hansard on the topic. His views on the matter were straightforward. In closing this part of my remarks, I would like to read what he said.

"As long as I can remember, and in any experience I ever had on my own farms, each farmer was expected to maintain his half of the

line fence unless there was a mutual consent, registered agreement in writing to the contrary.”

I think that is what the act is all about, and that is something my resolution hopes to preserve. I would like to save a little time for later.

The Deputy Speaker: The member has three minutes and 55 seconds remaining.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the resolution on the Line Fences Act. I congratulate the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard) for his words in the Legislature to help get the minister to move on these amendments. I hope the government will see fit to bring in amendments to this act before long.

I want to point out that the principle of the Line Fences Act was that each farmer was to pay 50 per cent of the costs. I was in the House at the time amendments were made to the act in 1979. At no time was it ever stated or thought that a farmer would ever pay any less than 50 per cent of the costs. Amendments were made to allow less than 50 per cent of the cost in some cases, but those were not cases where farms were abutting; they were cases where farms might abut against a drive-in theatre or some urban situation.

I want to point out that at no time was it ever thought that one land owner would be exempted entirely, which happened in Grey county recently when an appeal went to the small claims court. Subsection 4(1) of the act, where it is talking about the fence-viewers, states: “...to view and arbitrate as to what portion of the fence each owner shall construct” and so on. It does not talk about one or the other; it talks about what part each owner shall construct.

I also want to point out the argument put up by the cash crop farmers that they do not need a fence. This to my mind is entirely untrue. If I were a cash crop farmer, I would not like to go away for a couple of weeks’ holiday and come home to find that the neighbour’s cows had spent a week in my corn.

One might say: “You could get that covered by insurance,” but I do not know anybody who has ever won such an insurance claim. Although I might try to get my neighbour to pay for the full cost of that fence, there is no way, if he did not, that I would feel secure not having a fence there. I would certainly not mind even paying half the cost to make sure that when I leave home and come back, the neighbour’s cows are not going to be in the corn.

I agree with this resolution as far as it has gone, and I know a recommendation has been made by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture that an independent tribunal should be set up instead of

the judge at the small claims court. There is nothing wrong with that, but I feel there is an easier way to correct the situation, and that is to make a further amendment to the act.

The real problem is in clause 7(1)(b) of the act where it states: “...unless the fence-viewers, in the circumstances of the case, consider an award in the terms of subclause (i) and (ii) to be unjust, in which case the fence-viewers may make such award in respect of the construction, reconstruction, repair or maintenance of the fence as they consider appropriate.”

That is the problem right there, and that is where the judge has taken it and said he can decide what is appropriate. That again, I want to point out, was not meant to apply between two farmers; it was meant if a farmer came up against an industry, a drive-in theatre or the like.

I wrote to the minister on this matter on February 10, as I know many others have. I know the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) has received many requests for changes to this act to correct the problems we have had lately when cases go to the small claims court for appeal and the fence-viewers’ decision has been overturned.

I will read a part of the letter I wrote to the minister, which may explain it as well as I can:

“The people in my area are quite upset about the small claims court decision pertaining to the Line Fences Act. Even though the fence-viewers awarded costs to be split 50:50 to the farmers, the judge on an appeal awarded all costs to one farmer.

“The Line Fences Act was to allow proper negotiations to take place between farmers to allow for orderly fence building and sharing of costs. The intent of the act over the past 100 years, even though it was revised in 1979, was that the sharing of costs of the fence between two farmers would be 50 per cent each.

“The amendments made to the act in 1979 allowed the fence-viewers to award a variation of cost between owners rather than the previous stipulation of 50 per cent. This variation in no way was to mean that the variation was to take place between two farmers. The variation from the 50:50 split in fence costs was in no way to interfere when two farmers were involved, whether they be beef farmers or cash crop farmers.

“I have had numerous inquiries about this judge’s decision and requests that an amendment be made to the act so this cannot happen in future. I totally agree with the farmers who are upset

with the decision and feel an amendment to the act should take place."

4:10 p.m.

As I mentioned before, I was in the House in 1979 and I remember meeting with the late Honourable James Auld on the amendments to the act at that time. Those were the days of minority government, when we had quite a bit of clout in regard to the legislation taking place.

The minister did not want the government lands to be included in the Line Fences Act at that time. He wanted the government lands to be exempt. There was no way we were going to allow this to happen and leave Natural Resources, the Niagara Escarpment land, etc., exempt from the act. I remember saying to the minister then that if they were going to compete with us or with the people of Ontario to buy land, they had to be responsible land owners and should be included in the act.

The minister could hardly do anything but agree, but the government put in subsection 23(3) of the act to protect itself:

"Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, an award made under section 7 in respect of lands vested in the crown in right of Ontario shall not require the crown to be responsible for more than one half of the fence or to pay to the adjoining owner an amount exceeding 50 per cent of the cost of the fence."

All we need is another clause, the very same, to be added for the farmer. If the government can do this, so can the farmer. I recommend that we make an addition to section 23 of subsection 23(4), which would read as follows:

"Notwithstanding any other provision in this act, an award made under section 7 in respect of lands owned by two adjoining farmers shall not require the farmer to be responsible for more than one half of the fence or to pay to the adjoining owner an amount exceeding 50 per cent of the cost of the fence."

This seems like a reasonable amendment, since the same limitation has been put in the act to protect the government from paying more than 50 per cent. I hope the member for Northumberland will now push on with the rest of us to try to get the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to bring these necessary amendments into the House as soon as possible. I also hope he will include the one I have just suggested.

I feel that is all that is necessary. It would help bring the Line Fences Act back into line, as it has been for the last 100 years, so it will work properly in our country. Maybe good fences will

make good neighbours, and good neighbours will make good fences.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak on this, not only because I am interested in agriculture but also because during my years as reeve of a municipality, I was involved in many cases regarding line fences.

I have to say immediately, though, I am somewhat disappointed that we have to deal with this legislation here today. If the honourable member feels as strongly as I know he does about this, and if it makes so much sense, I wonder why the government has not already moved on it.

The fact that this motion is here today is a justifiable criticism of the government of this province. We could be using this time. The member could have brought in a resolution to deal with red meat stabilization or the provision of capital finance for farmers, matters about which there is great concern and great need at present.

However, I do not want those remarks to be interpreted as meaning that I do not recognize the importance of line fences and adequate legislation to deal with them.

The member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) has stated that good fences make good neighbours. Of course, that expression has been in existence for many decades; anyone who was raised on a farm has heard it before. I also want to point out, though, that sometimes arriving at the decision as to who is going to pay for those good fences has caused, and does cause, neighbours to be enemies for the rest of their lives; so it is very important that we have adequate legislation.

That legislation needs to be changed from time to time. Certainly the situation and the circumstances surrounding line fences have changed dramatically from the time of my youth, both in the sense of the kind of fences, from many of the stump fences that existed at the time, and of the need for fences.

The acting Speaker, the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens), would not know, because he is too young, but there are some members of this House who know that back in those days all farmers needed fences because they all had a few cattle, a few hogs and a few sheep, and it was as important for them to have a line fence as it was for their neighbours to have a line fence. Now we have many cash croppers adjacent to cattle producers or milk producers, and at any given time one may not even care whether he has any fences while the other farmer may very desperately need those fences; so the situation has changed in that regard.

The situation has also changed with regard to the cost of fencing. I am given to understand that at present, if you are going to get a contractor to do it, it costs you about \$3 a foot to have a good farm fence installed. This means that if a farmer has 160 acres and he wants to put a fence all around it, it is going to cost him about \$30,000. That is no small sum of money, especially with the rather desperate financial plight in which many farmers find themselves at present. Even if they do the work themselves, there are costs to it. The actual out-of-pocket expenses will amount to maybe \$15,000 to put in a couple of miles of fence; so it is no small matter.

The reason we have this debate at this time, as the member for Northumberland has stated, is that judges in small claims court have made decisions recently in which they have awarded all the costs of the fence to one of the farmers. The present legislation, as the member for Grey has mentioned, never anticipated that.

The principle that is set out in subclause 7(1)(b)(ii) is that there should be an equal division of the costs, and I think anybody reading it would agree with that. Then it goes on to say, "unless the fence-viewers, in the circumstances of the case, consider an award in the terms of subclause (i) or (ii) to be unjust, in which case the fence-viewers may make such award in respect of the construction, reconstruction, repair or maintenance of the fence as they consider appropriate."

The trouble by and large has not been with the fence-viewers, who are members of the local municipality and are generally farmers themselves; the problem has been with the judges, who do not have the background that the fence-viewers have and who therefore make what I and obviously the mover of the motion consider to be some unjust decisions.

4:20 p.m.

To award all the costs of a fence to one side is grossly unfair. There is a benefit to both land owners in a line fence; there is no question about that. Although one of the land owners or farmers might not have any need for a fence at that time, his type of operation can change quickly. Perhaps two or three years later he will need a fence, and then he has a costly and good fence for which he has paid nothing.

Anyone would have to agree that good fences around a property and a line fence increase the value of that property. Therefore, if he is going to have an increase in the capital value of the property he owns, he should pay part of the cost.

As has already been mentioned, good fences prevent trespassers and so on. There is an advantage for both sides of a line fence. Granted, sometimes it may be more of an advantage for one land owner or farmer than to the other, but there is an advantage for both sides.

I believe a decision to assess no costs against one of the land owners has been and continues to be unfair where it has been done. The resolution we have before us provides for a tribunal instead of a judge. I support that. I think a local tribunal in particular will make a decision that is more in tune with the feelings of the agricultural community than a judge would.

I also understand that in some cases, when they go before the judge, one side will take a lawyer, sometimes a very expensive lawyer, and there are a lot of costs involved. If they take lawyers, they have been winning. Those who have not had lawyers sometimes have lost. Therefore, that means farmers on both sides are going to have to take expensive lawyers and add to the whole cost of the fence. I think a tribunal would be better on all counts.

I have to say, however, even after the explanation of the member for Northumberland, I am somewhat surprised that there is no minimum in the resolution with regard to what either land owner would have to pay, because if it is a provincial tribunal, and particularly if it is a tribunal composed of Conservative members appointed by the government, there is a danger of the same thing happening under that tribunal.

I would like to see something in legislation that would not permit all the costs to be awarded to one farmer. I would like to see that right in the legislation. I regret the honourable member does not have that in the resolution.

Those of us who are familiar with the resolutions and the policies of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture know it has taken a stand on this. It says no land owner should pay less than one third. Let me put it another way: No land owner should pay more than two thirds of the costs of the line fence. That is the policy of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and it is one I support.

I am also sorry that the member did not bring in his proposal in the form of a bill amending the act so we would not be passing something that is going to be totally ignored by the government. Let us bring in a bill and vote on it. He should call for a vote of his own members. Let us get it passed today. Why should we just pass a resolution of platitudes?

Having said that, because this is better than what we have at present and one cannot vote against the principle of it, I will support the resolution before us.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak in support of the bill—the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) has me talking about a bill, but it is a resolution introduced by my friend the member for Northumberland. The issue of line fences has been quite familiar to me from the time I have been running a dairy operation.

On the topic of line fences, I want to point out that about two years ago there was a decision in the Orillia small claims court on an appeal of a fence-viewer's award. As a result of that appeal, the judge ordered one of the property owners to pay the full cost of maintaining and replacing the entire length of fence.

At the time, the reaction was not as strong as has come out of Grey and Bruce counties, but that was largely due to the fact that one property owner had a dairy operation and the other property owner was not farming at all. In cases like this, there is no public objection to one property owner paying more for the line fence than his neighbour, but I doubt whether this legislation intended to allow such uneven awards.

I was not a member when the act was last amended, but it is important to look at the debate in 1979. As my colleague the member for Northumberland indicated, the recent decisions in small claims courts largely do not reflect the intent of the act passed by this Legislature in 1979. At that time, the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) pointed out that cash crop farmers and some feedlot and dairy operations did not need fencing but that overall the 50:50 principle was supported.

Given the wording of the current act, the court rulings are proper; but a quick look at the debates that took place in May and June of 1979 will show clearly what this House intended. On second reading of the bill, the parliamentary assistant, the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg), summarized the changes from the act then in force. He said:

"Firstly, a line fence will no longer be mandatory in every case but only when one adjoining owner wants one, in which case he may construct a fence on the boundary line. I would stress that if one owner wants a fence and the other does not, there shall be a fence."

As added proof of this assembly's intention, during the committee stage of the bill it was

decided to remove the clause allowing fence-viewers to award the entire cost of the fence to one property owner. Section 7 of the act allows viewers to award what they consider to be appropriate. At the committee stage as well, the member for Welland-Thorold moved a number of amendments that were accepted and are now part of the current act. The main thrust of some of his amendments was to establish more firmly the 50:50 split.

Throughout the debate, one point seemed to be accepted by most members. They could see situations where one neighbour could be expected to pay more than half. One example was of a cash crop farmer whose neighbour suddenly acquired livestock. While it was felt the livestock owner should perhaps pay more, nobody expected him to pay the whole cost. That is why some of the small claims court decisions have come as such a surprise.

Another problem arises when the entire cost of the fence has been covered by one owner. If a livestock owner has been required to pay 100 per cent and the cash crop owner pays nothing, we have to ask what happens if the cash crop farmer changes his operation to deal in livestock. If uneven awards continue to be given, there must be a way in which the livestock owner can recover part of his cost if his neighbour's land-use changes.

Before I go on, it would be helpful to look at the Orillia small claims court decision, because it makes valid points about the act. In that case the farmer had a dairy herd and the neighbour was not farming. In his decision, the judge made a few observations about the act that are worth repeating.

First, he made a short point about the relevance of the act in modern times: "Certainly, under certain circumstances, the Line Fences Act is a good statute and is a great help, but it obviously has its origin in a society which was chiefly rural and in agricultural use."

He then stated that one of the parties is obviously not involved in farming and continued: "The Line Fences Act does not address itself quite clearly to this situation. It tends to treat matters as if all fences were strictly for the division of agricultural use."

4:30 p.m.

In his judgement, he stated: "I make it a finding that the fence-viewers could have and should have made an award other than a 50:50 split of the fence, which is quite properly good custom and makes good sense between neighbours, should they both require the fence."

He went on to say: "I find all the evidence points to the fact that the Pelletts did not need a fence nor were they in any way involved in agriculture. This relieves them of any obligation under the Line Fences Act to provide a fence."

Finally, he said: "My own comment is that I am sorry the Line Fences Act is not clear on this basis. I believe the fence-viewers thought they were doing the right thing. None the less, I will have to set aside their award, and Mr. Davy can build whatever fence he wishes, but he is under no obligation from this decision to build any fence. It is his cattle he is concerned about, and he has the obligation to contain his cattle."

"I make one comment that the act obviously makes very good sense for active farmers to share the cost of the fence."

I believe the one thing we must do is clarify the act in this regard. I believe fences have other uses than just containing livestock, and many farmers will agree with me. Fences can keep out people as well as cattle, and all property owners benefit by having their property boundaries marked by a fence. We see a lot of fences in towns and cities, but no judge can make the argument that the fences are there to keep out cattle.

In making awards, and even on appeal, I feel the act should require the fence-viewers and the appeal body to consider all the various benefits that result from having a fence mark a boundary.

An independent appeals process has a great deal going for it. Whether it is a number of people or a single individual, the appeals body should be much better qualified to judge what benefits each property owner would receive from a line fence.

In summary, I believe the act has worked well and the changes required are minimal. However, I do believe the change proposed by my colleague the member for Northumberland is a good one and deserves support.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to rise and speak on resolution 24, brought in by the member for Northumberland.

As the former reeve of a municipality, as a regional councillor and as a farmer, I am pretty well informed on the need for fences for efficient farming. Fences make a farm look much neater. In the past 10 years, the tradition has been to clean out the old fence bottoms and fences because cattle are being maintained in feedlots, and the need for fences has not been that great. However, I believe the tradition is changing again now with the advent of more beef cattle and more cow-calf herds.

While the Line Fences Act was redesigned in 1978, the basic principle was to have a simple

way of dealing with providing for fences between neighbours and farms. When it was revised, because farmers were going to large cash crop areas and feedlot management, perhaps the emphasis was not put on the right places.

Going back, they had a simple rule. Two farmers went to the centre of the line fence and faced each other, and each one looked after the part of the fence that was to his right. It was a fairly simple way of dealing with it, and it provided a fairly simple method. Now, when they go to court, it can cost them more money than the fence itself.

I think a simpler procedure has to be arrived at to come up with a fair solution so each farmer and each land owner knows his rights very clearly. It is up to the government to bring in these regulations and make the adjustments if it really feels agriculture is worth fighting for. I sometimes question that; we have done that many times on this side of the House. There are not many votes out there, and the government really does not care whether more young people have the opportunity to farm. They just let the problem drift along and get bigger with fewer people involved.

While the member has brought in a recommendation for a solution, it may well need further input from organizations such as the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which already has suggested that changes are needed.

An association in Haldimand county has been concerned about the unfairness of the Line Fences Act and the difficulty in making it work. I know it is a private member's resolution, but I just hope the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) is listening, and I hope he will have some input into it. I hope he will go back to the grass roots for information and will listen to that when the government does adjust it. He should do that to ensure it will work satisfactorily on behalf of the agriculture industry.

The member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) indicated that even in urban municipalities people are fencing in their backyards. In our own family a young couple bought a house in Dundas and the first thing they did was put up a fence. The whole neighbourhood fenced in their backyards and split the costs on a 50:50 basis.

I do not see why it is not reasonable to suggest the same thing in the rural areas, even for a person who comes out from the city. He may be a doctor who just wants to speculate in land and who has access to tax credits by renting the land out. He may have no desire to put up fences at an added cost. I think that would be very unfair to a

neighbouring farmer, even a livestock farmer; his income is not all that great, and I do not think he should be expected to pay the full cost of replacing a fence.

It would be better if we went back to the simple method that has been applied over many years, where fence-viewers are appointed at the municipal level, whether it be a region or a small municipality, and their decisions are final. If the system requires an appeal procedure, why should that not be set up under the jurisdiction of the municipality so that it could make the final decision? In that way a lot of court costs could be avoided, and that has to be a serious consideration.

With the final appeal, if one party is not satisfied, he has the right to go to court. But we could avoid that if the regulations were clearly stated in the bill, and that is the direction in which we should be going.

As the member for Grey indicated in his opening remarks, section 23 of the bill states that the crown in Ontario has the right to split its costs 50:50. If it were clearly stated that private land owners had to do the same thing, that might be a simple solution.

It has been a pleasure to have the opportunity of speaking to this resolution. I hope something further will come of it in the way of real action by the government.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I want to join in support of the resolution before the House this afternoon. I would have hoped we would have had something a little more straightforward and with some substance to it, such as a bill. However, I recognize that members on the government side are often very timorous about advancing legislation, even in private members' hour; so we do have a somewhat diluted resolution in front of us.

We also have to address ourselves to the problem that is out there. In many of our rural municipalities, disputes with regard to fences traditionally were handled in a fairly straightforward way with the use of fence-viewers, so they were never a major concern. Now suddenly the tenor of the argument around the issue of who is looking after these fences properly has taken on a new tone, and in part it may be because there are people in rural municipalities in Ontario today who are doing rather unusual things.

I believe in the member's own riding there is one religious group that is cultivating a crop of elk. What is the proper terminology for that? They are feeding and growing elk and distribut-

ing products from the elk herd around the world, as I understand it. In many of our municipalities that is a rather unusual circumstance; but it is becoming a more common problem, and it is a serious problem when you get into the special needs of fencing, for example, a herd of elk or what most of us would call wild animals. It poses a problem.

More than that, in many of our rural municipalities there is now a new kind of farmer. Maybe he or she is not the traditional family farmer; maybe he or she is someone who is not quite as familiar with rural values, so to speak, and who does not quite look after his or her property in the way that is normally done.

In many places, like the little town of Napanee, where I grew up, part of the relationships that developed over the years among families was that you knew everybody else who lived and worked around you; and if there was a problem about a fence that was not properly constructed or did not exist, or if any kind of problem came up concerning the boundaries between one farm and another, there was a long-standing way to resolve that argument. You knew that family, you probably went to school with children from that family and so you did not mind resolving it in a pretty casual and informal way.

The difference, of course, is that now in many parts of rural Ontario there are people who did not grow up there, who do not share all those friends and acquaintances; and for them that approach to problem-solving really does not exist. So fence-viewers in many parts of Ontario have been more active lately and have been looking at problems other than the traditional ones.

I think most members would acknowledge from their own constituency work, whether one is in an urban riding or a rural riding, that one of the nastiest kinds of arguments one can get involved in is an argument between two neighbours. You really cannot win that argument at all.

To all those people who serve as fence-viewers in Ontario we owe an immense debt of gratitude, because if they were not there, it might be the local member of the Legislature who was asked to intervene in that dispute; and it can be a very nasty dispute, even when they are people who have known one another for a lengthy period of time. They often get involved in a dispute about fencing that ruins all those years of relationships that have developed.

The second major thing that may be contributing to the growth of this particular problem is that more and more people are not doing what they traditionally did with respect to fencing. Fencing would seem to be something you did as a normal part of your daily life on a farm, but many of them now are saying: "No, that is not the kind of fence that needs to be built these days. We will call in an outside contractor to put up the fence." So what people used to view as two or three days' work now becomes a major expenditure of money, and fence-viewers in their decisions are now causing economic considerations to come to the forefront. It is now a major economic concern rather than just a concern of whose social responsibility it is to look after this matter.

The appeals system currently in place is running into some difficulty and the legal profession is entering the picture. It does seem to me that what the member has proposed would resolve the issue, so we will support the resolution.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The member for Northumberland has three minutes remaining. Do you want to take it or are you passing it on?

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of comments I would like to make. I would like to remind the member for Grey that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is in the Legislature today listening to this debate. I am sure the minister will have a look at it and take into consideration the remarks the member made in regard to subsection 23(3), and maybe he will consider an extra clause.

The member for Welland-Thorold mentioned that perhaps the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) should have been here. He is in Kitchener today making a statement on the red meat stabilization program for Ontario.

The member also commented that the cost was \$3 a foot. He went on to say it depended on whether the farmer would do it himself or whether he would hire someone to have it done. I know fencing is very expensive.

The member for Simcoe East commented that more legislation was definitely needed. He said the legislation should be better clarified. I am sure when the minister has a look at it, he will do just that.

The member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) mentioned settlement of disputes should be left to the municipality. I would have to disagree with that. If an independent tribunal made a decision in a dispute between two neighbours, its judgement would be more readily

accepted than if it was left to the fence-viewers in the township because it would not know either of the neighbours. The fence-viewers in the township would already have one ruling on it, but it would be more acceptable to the neighbours if a tribunal had another look at it.

I would like to say to the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) that I live only a couple of miles from that herd of elk in the township of Alnwick. The fence around that particular farm is about eight feet high. If one wants to see some good, healthy elk one can see them from the road any day one wants to drive down—

Mr. Breaugh: Can one buy the product?

Mr. Sheppard: No, one cannot buy the product. They are exported. The federal vet was in my riding a short time ago and he said they are the healthiest elk he knows of in any part of Canada. I want to leave that with the members. We do have healthy animals in Northumberland.

I am very pleased all the speakers have been in favour of supporting my resolution today. I am sure they will all be happy with it when it is finalized.

DISPLAY OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

Mr. Edighoffer, seconded by Mr. Boudria, moved resolution 25:

That this House urges all municipalities which have not already done so to pass bylaws restricting the open display in retail stores of materials such as books, magazines and videotapes, which are appealing to or designed to appeal to erotic or sexual appetites, or which depict images of exaggerated violence, and that such open display be restricted through the use of opaque barriers of a size and nature which would ensure that the covers of such books, magazines and videotapes, save only the names thereof, may not be seen by the public.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The member has up to 20 minutes for his presentation. He may reserve any portion thereof for a final comment.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Speaker, after very careful consideration and some very full files, I felt it was necessary to place such a resolution before the House today. I have noticed many newspapers across Ontario have carried stories on pornography. I think citizen groups have been showing their extreme desire for some assistance.

I have also received considerable correspondence, mainly from my own constituency, in the last few months. That quantity is increasing steadily.

In the past, much of the responsibility has been shoved from one jurisdiction to another, trying to find the right legislative level. But many of my constituents feel it is time something was done to stem the flow and availability of pornographic material.

4:50 p.m.

I would like to commence my remarks by referring to a paper presented in February of this year by David A. Scott of the Action Group on Media Pornography. He released a brief summary of recent research on aggressive pornography. It is interesting how he commenced his comments. He stated:

"In 1970 the US Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography concluded that there was no evidence that pornographic materials have a harmful effect on individuals. During the last decade, however, a new body of research has emerged which seems to indicate that such an overall general statement of a 'no harm' effect is not entirely warranted. This is not to imply that the research and conclusions of the commissions were wrong, but rather that the types of material studied by the commission were not representative of the stimuli present today.

"This seems to be especially true in the case of aggressive pornography, a type of material which tends to produce a general pattern of asocial attitudes and behaviour. Additionally, commercially-released aggressive films have also taken on a sexually violent nature by way of explicit scenes of rape and other forms of violence against women."

This summary went on at considerable length, but I thought it was important to place that on the record because we are talking only of the past decade or decade and a half and the tremendous changes that have taken place in community standards and attitudes.

Early last year—I believe it was in January 1983 when the city of Toronto was preparing a bylaw—a presentation was made by Janet Nickleson from Toronto to the Metro legislation and licensing committee. She made a number of comments and referred to *And What About the Future of Pornography?* She said:

"The Metro Toronto News Co. distributes 476 adult sophisticated magazines each year. Discicore distributes 106 and I was unable to get figures for at least five other distributors and all the independents who supply these magazines.

"Pornography competes with pornography. It is only the promise of bizarre twists and the breaking of traditional taboos that keep the purchaser coming back for more. The more we

are shown deviant behaviour, the more desensitized we become. We come to accept this as the norm. First we are shown a cartoon about incest. Then we have airbrushed layouts for advertising, depicting a father and daughter and then we are fed an article called *The Joys of Incest*. Does the media really reflect society or is society being manipulated by the media? Someone is out of step."

A year later, the Women's Perspective Advisory Committee was created to identify issues of concern to women and to present women's perspectives to the leader of the official opposition. Many recommendations were made, one of which I would like to place on the record. I believe it is quite pertinent to this resolution before the Legislature today.

"The subcommittee on pornography and censorship recommends that the Ontario Liberal caucus propose and support an amendment to section 222 of the Municipal Act, making the provisions therein mandatory rather than permissive, and that such an amendment incorporate the following provisions:

"i) That all adult publications which are sold, rented or otherwise intended for public consumption be displayed behind opaque barriers at heights of no less than five feet; and,

"ii) That a licensing scheme be set up whereby only licensed vendors can sell, rent or otherwise make available for public consumption adult magazines, and that such licence may be revoked or suspended upon the finding that the provisions of the said legislation have been violated.

"There are two approaches to regulation, prohibition and censorship of materials: prior restraint and subsequent punishment. The Criminal Code focuses directly on the latter, while recommendation 4:00 applies to the former. Prior restraint is a more efficient and effective way of achieving these goals. Licensing is largely considered to be municipal jurisdiction and the sub-committee recognizes the political sensitivities inherent in crossing perceived jurisdictional boundaries.

"However, the goals of effective and efficient regulation are forfeited when legislation is left to random and inconsistent passage by municipalities. While centralizing control is not always, of course, the best response to the jurisdictional-efficiency tension, uniform province-wide legislation is, in this case, warranted. Revocation and suspension of licence privileges is an important and cost-effective complement to the provisions of the Criminal Code."

That was recommended by the advisory committee. As the members noted, it definitely said "mandatory." My resolution only urges municipalities to pass bylaws. I feel it is important. I believe many other members of the government feel it is important.

I read the 1983 estimates of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). In his opening statement, he made it very clear, by using this subject as the first item of his remarks, that he felt something should be done to control the increase in the production, distribution and sale of pornographic and obscene materials. I recommend any of the members to refer to his comments on June 15, 1983.

This year the speech from the throne stated something would be done about the distribution of videotapes. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) has introduced legislation. I found it most interesting. Early in May, he made a speech to the Progressive Conservative Metro Women's District Association. He also issued a press release that was headlined, "Province to Take Action on Videos."

During that speech, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations stated: "The description of a Conservative which I have long preferred was the one favoured by Senator Grattan O'Leary. He did not see society as a museum where everything from the past had to be preserved by a curator. He saw the work around him as would a gardener, planting new seedlings and pruning the growth."

To date I do not know whether the gardener, who is the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, is still standing in the garden, but I know he is trying to do a little pruning. However, I think it will still take considerable time until that legislation is passed.

Earlier, I referred to the comments and letters I have received from my own constituents. I believe it was on April 19, 1984 that I attended a meeting in the town of St. Marys. At that time many community leaders were present. I viewed the presentation by the Mount Forest detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police on video materials. There was a presentation by the local members of the St. Marys and Area Coalition against Pornography.

5 p.m.

I was given a prepared list of magazines containing obscene materials that were available in the town of St. Marys in November, 1983. I will not go into this in detail by giving the members the list of names. However, at that

time, there were 76 pornographic magazines on the shelves of business places in St. Marys. All those magazines endorsed sadism, masochism, bondage, rape, incest and child pornography. Since then I have received many more letters from my constituents requesting standard bylaws to control the location and coverage of all but the names of the magazines.

There are many articles I could refer to from my constituency and from other areas throughout the province, but more important, I would like to refer to a number of articles. Two were in newspapers in 1983 and one was in a newspaper in 1984. These articles are, I think, alarming.

One on April 30, 1983, was headlined "Porno Magazines Fed His Bizarre Sex Urges, Convicted Teenager Says." I would like to quote briefly from this article:

"A teen-aged sex offender believes his behaviour was influenced by reading pornographic magazines, a York county court has been told.

"The unusual comment was obtained in a psychological assessment of Austin Thomas, who was sentenced yesterday to four years in prison for two sexual attacks, one of them involving a 9-year-old girl. Thomas...pleaded guilty to indecently assaulting a 27-year-old woman in an apartment laundry room when he was 16 and to attempted sexual intercourse with a female under 14.

"Prosecutor Gunter Vordemberge urged Judge Ted Wren to 'think of the victims' and consider retribution in his sentence. Thomas, who has previous convictions for indecent exposure, suffers from a psychosexual disorder known as paraphilia, psychologist Ester Cole wrote in a report....

"The phenomenon of paraphilia occurs when an individual indulges in unusual or bizarre imagery or acts in order to attain sexual excitement,' Cole stated. Cole wrote that Thomas recognizes he needs professional help... Thomas 'believes that his socially unacceptable behaviours were influenced by him reading pornographic magazines'."

On August 17, 1983, in the Toronto Star, there was an article entitled "Sadistic Tales Sparks Teacher War on Porn." I will quote this very briefly:

"It was supposed to be a simple grade 5 composition on What I Did Last Night, but Scarborough teacher Christine Ferguson couldn't believe her eyes as she scanned one boy's story. 'And then the man raped the lady. And then another man raped her, and another man...and then they cut her up'.

"Filling two loose-leaf pages, the normally lazy pupil described in graphic detail a pornographic videotape about gang rape and mutilation his parents had shown him the night before at his uncle's house.

"One month later, the same boy was caught grinding a lit cigarette into a kindergarten pupil's neck. Then and there, Ferguson vowed to wage war against sadistic pornography."

I have another one, but I guess my time has almost run out. I would just like to refer to this one briefly. It is entitled "Porn, Battering Linked, Hearing Told." This is one where the Fraser committee was informed how a Latin-American woman living here was sexually abused by her husband, who was obsessed with pornographic magazines and erotic films. It goes on with more of the story.

The point I really want to make is that several cities now have passed bylaws to control this material in business places. We are finding now that many other communities are trying to follow in those steps and prepare similar bylaws. I think it is expensive and time-consuming for every municipality to go ahead and process a bylaw and develop one on its own.

I know all of us do not want particularly to interfere or intervene with the authority of another level of government, but I think this resolution is only a first step, and I ask the support of the House to urge all municipalities to pass such bylaws. By assisting in the preparation of these bylaws, I think we can speed up the process. We can probably save some taxpayers money in some municipalities and we can assist in having a general, comprehensive, similar bylaw so that all businesses are treated equally.

Some time ago Norman Cousins, the editor of *Saturday Review* said: "The trouble with the kind of wide-open pornography that is rampant today is not that it corrupts, but that it desensitizes; not that it unleashes passions, but that it cripples the emotions; not that it encourages a mature attitude, but that it is a reversion to infantile obsession; not that it removes the blinders but that it distorts the view. Prowess is proclaimed but loving denied. What we have is not liberation but dehumanization."

Just today a headline in the *Toronto Star* said: "Judge Criticizes Society for Flow of Porn and Acquits Boy in Killing." The assistant crown attorney in Ottawa said the death of a 13-year old schoolmate of this young chap, "was linked to pornographic magazines found in the bedroom of the accused, similar to magazines found in a bag

at the death site behind a Nepean, Ontario, sports complex."

According to the article, the judge said there was "no evidence of sexual activity before the boy's death, but the accused, the victim and their friends all had ready access to pornographic material 'of a degrading and violent nature.' He criticized the community for its 'apathy and uncaring manner' in not speaking out against 'the free flow of pornography into the hands of our children. That guilt is by far more relevant in this case than the guilt or innocence of the accused... we urgently need legislation to ban this filth from our community.'"

I hope all members will join with me in supporting this resolution and with the help of the ministries of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the Attorney General, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, we can all get together so we can have a closer liaison with all municipalities and get some bylaws passed and make sure the present proliferation of pornography will not continue any more.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the resolution. I congratulate the member for Perth for introducing the resolution. I have always regarded him as a gentleman and a man of quiet integrity, and obviously the good burghers of the county of Perth have recognized that repeatedly with such landslide proportions that some of us over here have a hard time coping with the results.

Mr. Laughren: It may even be considered obscene.

Mr. Samis: It may even be considered obscene as my colleague the member for Nickel Belt suggests, but we will not get into that today.

I think this is obviously a problem. I want to make the point that I do not think it is problem that is confined to big cities. It is a problem that permeates communities of all sizes in Ontario—big, medium and small. Coming from eastern Ontario, I think it is evident in any community one visits in any part of the province, just as much as it is in downtown Toronto or western or northern Ontario.

5:10 p.m.

I recall vividly my younger days in the province of Quebec, growing up in the city of Montreal, and how things have changed. I recall being in high school when *Playboy Magazine* was banned in the city of Montreal. The clergy and Duplessis and his gang jumped on the bandwagon and tried to keep the publication out of Quebec because it was considered obscene,

pornographic and terrible in all ways, shapes and forms.

When I was in college in the early 1960s it was still an extremely controversial magazine. In those days it was not even nudity. It was much less than that. It was just women in varying states of attire and degrees of garments. The question of nudity was almost secondary. By today's standards it was extremely modest.

Looking at the evolution of magazines and the rise of Playboy in the 1950s, 1960s and throughout the 1970s to what we have today, I notice there has been quite a change. As the member for Perth pointed out, there are now more than 600 magazines on the market, and probably more than that. It is hard to get an accurate handle on it. From the displays of women in bathing suits or what was then considered controversial, bikinis, we have evolved well beyond that to the stage where nudity is considered acceptable as a display in a magazine of that genre. The question has gone beyond the mere displaying of the female form.

Common in some magazines are scenes of sexual relations between members of both sexes. Sexual relations between members of the same sex are considered common. There is an increasing use of violent imagery, etc., whether it is bondage, sado-masochism or even the use of children in scenes. There has been a tremendous change.

Twenty years ago the nudist magazines were considered pornographic because people were displayed in the nude at some nudist colony or camp. People regarded that as pornographic and obscene. Today that would be considered, in terms of this ilk of magazine, rather common and tame. When we evolve into scenes involving children, bondage, sado-masochism and crude, raw exploitation of women, that is a different story.

One example I would refer to is Hustler magazine which has to be one of the grossest magazines on display in various stores in the province. I realize obscenity comes under federal jurisdiction. That is an example for anyone who thinks this is much ado about nothing. If one went to the local corner store to get an idea of the range of magazines available, today Playboy is one of the more refined magazines of its ilk compared to some of these raw imports from California and New York. There is a whole category competing with Playboy—Penthouse, the Gallery, things of that sort. Then there is another group beyond that which seems to make its appeal based on the bizarre and the erotic. The

increasing use of violence is a common feature in these publications.

When someone goes to the corner store to get milk, bread or whatever, one sees these things are proliferating in ever increasing numbers. About four or five years ago one store in my community where I purchase magazines, newspapers and sundry had only Playboy, Penthouse and maybe one other. A couple of years ago it had an entire top shelf of what we would call skin magazines. Now it has at least two, if not three, full rows of these types of publications.

The more one gets away from the mainstream of these publications, the more objectional they become. It is now common to find Hustler magazine in most stores of this type. Ten years ago that would have been considered totally underground and unacceptable. Twenty years ago that would have been considered the absolutely most reprehensible form of porn imaginable. Today it is on display in mainstream stores in probably every city and community in this province.

This resolution goes a certain way towards putting the proprietors and retailers under some restraint. We are not trying to censor things. We know that is not our jurisdiction with respect to magazines and books. We are making a request that they keep them beyond the immediate accessibility of young children. Surely no one can quarrel with that. Surely that is common sense.

At noon hour, I went out to do a little research in the Wellesley and Church area. I popped into three stores. All three, I am pleased to report, are adhering to the Toronto bylaw. I think it was done rather well. All one could see was the name of the publication. Most children could probably see Hustler up there, but it was not accessible to them to take it and leaf through it. One of the stores even had Playboy, Penthouse, Hustler, Gallery and one other magazine all in plastic covers as well, for which I commend it.

I think this approach is a reasonable one. My wife, who happens to be a member of the city council in Cornwall, put forward a similar resolution to the city council of our community. Unfortunately, it did not pass, but I think if word gets out that this Legislature voted in favour of a resolution of this sort, it might influence some councils, knowing that the city of Toronto and other major cities have done it and that the Legislature is in favour of such an initiative.

The member referred to the incident in Ottawa, the articles in all three papers and the comments of both the assistant crown attorney

and the judge. I would admit there is no absolute argument that there is a completely undeniable link between pornography and certain crimes of violence and certain types of sexual deviation, but I think there is increasing evidence of a link, especially where various forms of brutality, torture, masochism and the types of things that are being displayed in certain magazines are involved.

As I say, I think this resolution is a moderate and reasonable one. It is common sense. It is something I think most people in this province could live with, and I commend the member for introducing it.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to enter into the debate this afternoon. First of all, I commend the member for Perth for bringing forth this resolution. I am sure he did so not only at the urging of his colleagues, but also because he is a gentleman of integrity who brings it forth because he has a particularly sensitive and very keen and real view.

I would say at the outset, in listening to the remarks of both the member for Perth and the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis), I took my mind back some 10 years or so in my municipality, when the mayor of the day and I tried to negotiate and deal with a certain distributor of that kind of material in order to do some of the things the honourable member is urging here on behalf of municipalities across Ontario today. At that time, we were successful, and perhaps we were absolutely in the vanguard.

I will not take credit unnecessarily—if someone can correct me, I will be pleased to accept the correction—but Scarborough was certainly in the forefront of making that kind of material somewhat less accessible and less visible to the young people who visit a variety of local commercial institutions on some mission or other.

The resolution the member for Perth brings before us today does reflect the fundamental importance he places on this issue. We all have difficulty addressing the issue of pornography and the sexual exploitation of others, all of which, no matter how one defines it or looks at it, has a negative impact on our society today.

I have to remind the House—and I am not going to be unnecessarily partisan on this occasion, which would come as a relief to my friend the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) if he were here—that while members of the party of the member for Perth individually have not necessarily been relative newcomers to the issue of the

fight against pornography, the official stance of that party certainly has been.

5:20 p.m.

I could go back as far as 1911, when the government of the day under Premier Whitney and his party, in response to public demand, initiated for the first time an act of the Legislature to monitor films for public exhibition.

As members on both sides of the House would recognize, the difficulty is that if the world were to stand still and if society's standards were to remain constant, we could easily put in place something that would reflect the will of society. That is simply not the case; there is ongoing change and ongoing flexibility. The member for Perth referred to it, in a clipping he read, as desensitization. I tend personally to be very supportive of that comment. That is really what it is, rather than a sudden swing towards or penchant for violence or some other form of sexual depravity.

Earlier this week, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations brought before the House certain very fundamental changes and certain very fundamental criteria to continue our belief in the necessity of regulating, censoring and deleting material of a very specific sort from certain productions that are made and offered for public consumption in Ontario.

I am pleased to see that the member opposite and others have agreed with the thrust of the bill; they have said so in their comments today. It is certainly very pleasing to know, as we all do, and I recognize it without trying to be in the least bit provocative, that every member of this House, without exception, has a very fundamental sense of the decency of this province and the decency reflected in the need of all the people we serve, whether we serve them in big cities or in small towns, or as my friend the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) does. I know he and I have been in the same forum many times to speak of the need for that kind of decency right across this province.

In terms of that decency, it is interesting to note as well that Ontario is the only province to have an active antipornography police squad operating under the auspices of the Ontario Provincial Police and the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

The standing committee on social development brought back two reports, as many of my friends in the House will know, dealing specifically with pornography, particularly as it relates to the heinous and unfortunate crimes of wife battering and child abuse. Our committee, which

had exposure to hideous incidents of both those things as they relate to sexual activity, is particularly sensitive of the need to recognize as a Legislature that this kind of practice cannot continue.

In terms of the studies we did, and in terms of the crime—and it is a crime that is afoot in our society today—it is interesting that we recognize the necessity of eliminating the avenue through which desensitization occurs. We recognize the need for coming down hard, strong and in a very definite way against the people who would further degrade our society.

The only way we can truly do that, in my opinion, is by reducing the measure of exposure. One way to do that, as my friend the member for Perth says, is simply to make a vast and exploding number of publications less visible in the community. That is an important step, no doubt about it. The whole issue, as the member recognized in his remarks, goes much deeper and much broader, and that becomes merely the tip of the iceberg.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services reported to the standing committee on social development the unfortunate estimate that between 2,000 and 3,000 children in Ontario are physically hurt, emotionally abused or sexually assaulted each year. There are those who would suggest to this House that somehow that matter is beyond public regulation. I say to them no, in the very strongest sense of the word.

The estimate on the extent of sexual abuse of our children is one girl in four. Let members look around; let them think of their own circumstances. One girl in four will be sexually abused during her adolescent years. That is a shameful and shocking statistic. One boy in 10 will be sexually abused during the same years. I submit to members that 10 or 20 years ago that would not even have been a consideration. Now these figures become simply more sad and shocking statistics.

In terms of what is pornography, in addition to the degradation of women, which has been spoken about in this House not only eloquently by the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch) but also equally eloquently by the members opposite, let us talk about children for a moment.

If any member in this House is prepared to say that the physical abuse or mutilation of children as a means or process of sexual exploitation is acceptable, I demand that at 5:45 p.m. he stand in his place and register that. If they are not, I would have great difficulty coming to grips with those

members opposite who would say that to censor that type of material, not only the reading material but also the films available to people in this province, goes hand in hand and is one and the same.

The member for Perth said, and I will expand upon it, that at one time there was no clear clinical link between sexually oriented crimes and bizarre or out-of-the-way sexually arousing material. The director of sexual behaviour at the New York Psychiatric Institution, Dr. Gene Abel, has had very specific findings in that regard. His study, and it is an extensive one, concluded that 48 per cent of child molesters are directed to their activities by similar pornography. It is also easy to say and report that Dr. William Marshall, a Queen's University psychology professor, has concluded as a result of his research and treatment of sex offenders that both hard-core and soft-core pornography contribute directly to sexual offences.

We are not dealing solely with the issue the member for Perth brings forward today in a very worthy and sensitive manner. We are dealing with a blight upon the face of society. It is our responsibility here as we speak in Ontario, as we represent not only our people but also the decency of the world we believe in, to bring it to a halt and to say no more.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on the resolution proposed by my colleague the member for Perth. I congratulate him for the initiative he has taken in bringing this very important issue to the floor of the Legislature.

It is important for all of us to state our support for this kind of resolution in this House. Such support is something municipalities are looking forward to before enacting legislation of their own which one hopes will at least curtail, if not stop, some of the spread of violent pornographic material we unfortunately face in this province.

Earlier today I received a call from a constituent who expressed to me his anger with the statement of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations earlier this week on censoring videotapes. This constituent was explaining to me just how, in his view, this curtailed his freedom of expression and all the other things people use in defence of not having censorship or anything else. I told him I respected his view but did not agree with it.

The freedom of expression issue that is sometimes used is nothing more than a red herring. Freedom of expression, although we do not like to think of it that way, is a relative

expression. No one is free to stand in the middle of a theatre and scream "Fire." One cannot use freedom of expression in that manner. It would be unacceptable and is outright illegal. One cannot do such a thing. Much in the same way, to express oneself through the distribution of violent pornography is in my view no more acceptable than screaming "Fire" in the middle of a crowded theatre.

5:30 p.m.

What we are dealing with is the fact that some people abuse the rights we have in a democratic society to profit from the sale of this material. Unfortunately, for everyone who profits from the sale of that material, we have a consumer who seems to be ready and willing to buy the product. That is the unfortunate, sad state of affairs we have.

A few weeks ago, I, along with other colleagues, had the opportunity to represent this Legislature at a parliamentary conference in the state of Louisiana. While I was down there, I happened to travel across the state of Mississippi. It is interesting to note that in southern Mississippi such magazines are covered with plain, brown wrappers on the display so one cannot see the covers. It is much the same, for instance, as the magazine Policy Options we get here.

An hon. member: That is not a bad idea.

Mr. Boudria: No, of course not. I am not saying Policy Options has anything to hide underneath its cover; I am just bringing to the attention of the House the fact that those magazines sold in that state of the American Union have covers on them—plain, brown wrappers. If my memory serves me right, there is a type of window on them that allows one to see nothing else but the title of the magazine. They are displayed in that manner in that American jurisdiction.

I did not have the opportunity to examine that in the state of Louisiana. I did not go down there looking for that; I just happened to notice it when I was standing at the counter of the hotel where my wife and I were staying. I thought, nevertheless, that it was interesting to bring to the attention of this House that we are not the first people to decide that this is a worthwhile thing to do.

Certainly for us as a Legislature to express our concern with this issue is very important. Others have done it before us. I do think we have to go on record as demonstrating our violent objection to this.

Mr. Laughren: Violent objection to what?

Mr. Boudria: To pornography. I suppose the word is somewhat unusual in view of the circumstance; however, on this issue, we must stand up and be counted.

Of course, as we know, this is not a partisan issue. Some of our colleagues in the Legislature may feel this infringes on freedom of expression. I respect that, if some of us have that opinion. I totally disagree with it, however, and I do want to express that as well.

I have a little information that some members have. It is a letter addressed to the Metro legislation and licensing committee and sent by Janet Nickleson. My colleague the member for Perth referred to it earlier. Ms. Nickleson was shopping in a store. She noted all these violent magazines and wrote to express her concern and objection to the kind of displays we see in some stores.

It is interesting to note in the letter that Ms. Nickleson expresses the concern that we have magazines there and attempts to define what she feels is objectionable and what is not. That, of course, is a very difficult issue to deal with. On the one hand we have the freedom of expression folks, and on the other hand we have everybody else. I am sure everybody else outnumbers the other variety at present.

We are dealing with rapidly changing community standards. We all acknowledge that. We are also dealing with even more rapidly changing attitudes on the part of the people who publish that kind of material. Believe me, if we change the community standard one inch, those groups are advancing their standards by 1,600 miles at the same time as we do. Their standards are quite different from anybody else's.

I was listening to some of the titles of the magazines that were mentioned earlier and reading some of the information. Even reading the title of those magazines makes one wonder whether it has reached the point where we will have to look into hiding even the names of some of them. They are outright objectionable in every possible way, shape and form.

It is interesting to note from several past newspaper articles the effect that violent pornography has had on people. I have here an article from the Toronto Star of April 13, 1981, about the very unfortunate murder of one Barbra Schlifer, a 33-year-old lawyer in this city. Reading the report of this murder, we notice that violent pornographic material was on the premises where the victim was murdered.

In another article, this one from the Globe and Mail, we read that a sex and bondage magazine

was beside a blood-soaked T-shirt near Miss Schlifer's belongings. Articles about other incidents show the same thing happens over and over.

There are those who pretend the distribution of such material merely enhances their freedom of expression or the freedom of everything else, but this is a totally unacceptable view in so far as I am concerned. I am of the opinion that we must strengthen the positions we have taken—those of my colleagues in this party and those of all members of the House—to stop the spread of this material.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and I congratulate the member for Perth for putting it on Orders and Notices and bringing it forward for debate this afternoon.

I must confess that a resolution such as this does make me nervous. I feel strongly that there is a very fragile balance in our society between the desire to restrict the spread of pornography, as in this case, and the dangers of censorship when censorship laws are imposed. It is a very fine balance in a civilized society; so I am forever nervous about the debate that is swirling around now on the whole question of pornography.

I am supporting this resolution for a number of reasons. First, I think it is appropriate to try to make the display of these magazines more discreet so that when people walk into the door of a neighbourhood variety store, they are not bombarded with the display. The previous speaker indicated that some of the names might even have to be covered up because the names of some magazines themselves could be considered by many to be pornographic.

I also appreciate that it is not an attempt actually to ban or censor these magazines completely. I could not support a resolution such as that. I think the honourable member has indicated by his resolution that this is not in any way what it is attempting to do.

I also like the way the resolution urges but does not order. I think that should be up to the municipality in this case.

5:40 p.m.

Finally, I appreciate that the member has not resorted to the bylaw which says the magazine should be a certain height above the floor. It would be very easy for someone like the member for Perth, who is about six feet, 12 inches tall, to make a requirement that it be five and a half feet above the floor, but I do not think that would be appropriate.

My sense of unease is there, not only on the whole question of censorship, but on the links

being made between behaviour in our society and the prevalence of pornographic material. I think those links are pretty tenuous in the literature at this point, from the limited reading I have done on it.

I suspect the jury is still out on the links between pornographic material and violence in our society, and the kinds of things the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) was talking about. I am very nervous about making those kinds of arguments too. I know it is easy to make them, but I am personally not convinced that is true.

If I had my druthers, this problem would be controlled in the stores through pressure from shoppers. For example, a lot of the variety stores which sell these are community, neighbourhood-based stores. I would like to see people who shop in those stores tell the vendor it is unacceptable to have the magazines in a very prominent display. Let us face it, the vendor in most of these stores requires a high volume of traffic in order to make a profit. Any reduction in that volume of traffic will be felt in his balance sheet.

I would like to see people in neighbourhoods let their vendors know they are displeased and refuse to shop there. They should point out to people going into the stores why they think people should not shop in the stores. I can see the situation. I live in Toronto. I have an apartment in the downtown area, not far from here. There is a neighbourhood variety store there.

If I was offended by what I saw in that store, I would be prepared to make up a small handbill and take it around to a couple of apartment buildings in the area. I would say: "This is what is going on in this store. We do not think this is appropriate." This is the kind of pressure I would like to see being applied to retailers who do not discreetly display these kinds of magazines.

There could even be a positive approach to it. It does not have to be all, "Don't shop at this store." If a retailer says, "All right. If that is the way you want it, I will put in an opaque barrier across or I will put them up at a very high level with an opaque barrier or I will not carry those magazines at all," I would like to see the people who did this urging in the first place express their appreciation to that vendor by the same method, perhaps by a handbill or by telling people this is a responsible vendor who has responded to people in the particular community.

However, this is harder to do in some locations. I understand that. I do not know how one would do that at a railway station, a bus station, an airport or places like that. It is the

neighbourhood stores where a lot of the young people are exposed to these magazines anyway. This would be an appropriate place to start the battle.

I would have difficulty with some other methods of imposing censorship. I would have problems with some of the wording in the resolution if it were to be a law of the land, if we were imposing some kind of ban and we were using the words in here, such as, "designed to appeal to erotic or sexual appetites." I could see us getting into some difficult arguments about interpretation of those phrases.

For the purposes of this resolution, I do not find it offensive and it does not bother me because the intent of the resolution is very clear. That is really what we are dealing with.

I hope the mover of the resolution, the member for Perth, will find some way to distribute his resolution and have municipalities take a look at it and see that it has what I think will be unanimous support from all three sides. That might have more influence than trying to pass an unworkable law. I am not trying to tell the member for Perth how to do his job, but I hope there is some way he can distribute this resolution to a large number of the municipalities in the province with an indication of the kind of support it received in the chamber this afternoon.

I think the municipalities appreciate this kind of approach, too. I think they would rather have an indication like that than have a new law laid upon them when that may not be, first, what the province wants to do or, second, the way it would be best received at the municipal level.

For those reasons I once again commend the member for Perth for this resolution, and I have no hesitation in supporting it.

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, in the very few moments that are left here, I would like to congratulate and commend the member for Perth for bringing in this resolution. It is one that I am going to support 100 per cent.

The city of Cambridge passed such a resolution just a little less than a year ago. It was finally enacted on June 27 of last year, and it had the full co-operation of not only the community at large but also the store keepers, those who sell the magazines in their stores. They have a little association, which supports it 100 per cent. Some of the distributors of these magazines also supported the introduction of such a bylaw in the city.

Other communities—I believe Toronto, London, Ottawa and even the great city of St. Catharines—have similar bylaws on their books. I

know that in the case of Cambridge, and I think in most cases, there has been no problem at all in enforcing such bylaws; very few charges have had to be laid because of their introduction.

I know that all sides of the House have had a strong concern about this for many years. Certainly this is not a matter to be partisan about. Some members have had some trouble organizing how they really feel about this matter as a whole, but now I think all sides of the House are on side.

The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, through his introduction of Bill 82, the Theatres Amendment Act, has certainly brought to light the government's intention towards and concern about the distribution of pornographic materials. I am sure the amendments to the Theatres Act will get support from all sides of the House. As a Legislature, I feel we must protect the public against such explicit magazines and videotapes at all costs.

I had the opportunity to visit the Ontario Board of Censors a couple of years ago and saw some of the violent, explicit scenes that had been taken out, and I certainly have to agree that a censor board is most needed and is an addition to our community that helps protect us against ourselves.

I will wind up by suggesting that we on this side, certainly I, anyway, fully intend to support this resolution.

AMENDMENTS TO LINE FENCES ACT

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sheppard has moved resolution 24.

Motion agreed to.

DISPLAY OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Edighoffer has moved resolution 25.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate the business for the remainder of this week and next. Tonight we will have second reading of revenue Bills 71, 72 and 73. On Friday, we will resume the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 68 and second reading of Bills 69 and 41.

On Monday, June 4, in the afternoon, we will consider estimates of the Ministry of Revenue, followed by committee of the whole House on Bill 142. In the evening, we will continue debate on Bill 142 in committee of the whole.

On Tuesday, June 5, in the afternoon, there will be committee of the whole on Bill 141, followed by second reading of Bills 62 and 75. In the evening, we will debate revenue bills not completed on Thursday, followed by committee of the whole on Bill 54 and other possible business to be announced.

On Wednesday, the usual three committees may meet. On Thursday, June 7, in the afternoon, we will deal with ballot items standing in the names of Mr. McClellan and Mr. Eves. In the evening, we will have second reading of Bills 65 and 45.

The House recessed at 5:52 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, May 31, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 31, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved second reading of Bill 71, An Act to amend the Assessment Act.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago today on May 17, 1984, I made an introductory statement on Bill 71, which contains amendments arising out of the budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) of May 15. The bill has two main purposes.

First, the bill allows for the inclusion of the disabled and seniors in the community program. This program exempts from property taxation those improvements, alterations and additions undertaken to allow disabled or senior citizens to continue living in their homes rather than in special care facilities. This measure will further ensure the continued wellbeing and independence of the province's handicapped and senior citizens by helping them to stay comfortably in their own homes.

In addition, it will encourage other property owners to undertake alterations, improvements or additions to their property to provide residential accommodation for either disabled or senior citizens who would otherwise require institutional care.

The second purpose of Bill 71 is to raise the general ceiling which allows property owners to make repairs and modest improvements to their homes without incurring increases to their assessments and subsequently to their tax bills. This ceiling will be raised from the current \$2,500 market value level to \$5,000.

The \$2,500 ceiling was established in 1971. At that time, it was considered a reasonable dollar level to allow property owners to undertake repairs, maintenance and modest improvements without a tax penalty. Today the ceiling has been so eroded by inflation that it is difficult to distinguish between nonassessable maintenance activities and more substantial alterations and additions. This new \$5,000 limit will be more reflective of today's property maintenance and construction costs.

Finally, this bill contains administrative amendments necessary for the implementation of the disabled and seniors in the community

program. This concludes my introductory remarks on second reading of Bill 71.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, we certainly cannot disagree with certain amendments the minister has proposed, particularly the one whereby handicapped and people of 65 years and over can make improvements to their homes. That is in keeping with the fact they will then not have to go to institutions, thus saving the taxpayers of this province a greater amount of money.

Another factor is helpful. People often want to stay in their homes. There are other people to look after. They will be happier at home with their loved ones rather than living in an institution either a short or long distance away. We cannot disagree with that. We only wish the government would give credit to the municipalities where credit lies because they are the ones who are going to subsidize the senior citizens, not the provincial government. This is not going to cost the provincial government one red cent except for printing the legislation, making the amendments and paying the salary of the minister. Aside from that, the provincial government is not going to contribute one cent to this particular change.

It means only that the addition of the improvements, which otherwise would be borne by people over 65 years of age or by the handicapped people of the province, will now be spread over the taxation base of the rest of the municipalities, so the province really is not out one cent. I have not heard the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory) or the Treasurer give credit to the municipalities, where the credit really lies because they are the ones who are going to subsidize this.

We support this change. It is somewhat overdue; nevertheless, it is here now, and we obviously are grateful to the government for finally bringing it about.

We do have concerns about other parts of the bill. I must draw the members' attention to clause 1(1)(b) of the act. This particular clause says, "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations, defining any word or expression used in this act that has not already been expressly defined in this act."

This seems to be a new power the ministry is taking upon itself. It means the ministry can define words as it wishes. I hope the minister in replying later on will be able to clarify why he needs this power all of a sudden. I think it will give him sweeping powers to define words as broadly or as narrowly as he wishes and, secondly, it can lead to a lot of abuse. We will be introducing an amendment later on to delete this clause from the bill unless there is good clarification of the need to retain it.

Another clause we are concerned with is clause 1(1a)(b), which says, "The minister may make regulations, prescribing any form that is required by this act or the regulations under this act or that, in his opinion, will assist in the administration of this act, and prescribing how and by whom any form shall be completed and what information it shall contain."

The minister already has part of that clause in the present bill prescribing forms for the purpose of this act. I do not know why he has to go to such great lengths to ask for additional clarification of this particular section. I hope he will be able to indicate in quite concise and clear terms why he needs this section broadened. What kinds of situations have arisen in the past in which he has not been able to deal effectively with those situations because he has not had the powers to do so and which therefore lead him to ask for increased clarification of this section?

8:10 p.m.

Another concern has to do with subsection 1(1b), which says, "A regulation made under this act is, if it so provides, effective with reference to a period before it was filed." We are asking for retroactivity here. Why are we interested in the retroactivity of this legislation? There must be an important case that has come up; otherwise, the minister would not be asking for retroactivity. Is it going to affect some case that is before the courts right now? Is it going to affect a case before the Ontario Municipal Board right now?

We obviously should know this. If there is such a case and if it does mean an important change, then the minister should have been open with us from the beginning and told us it would affect a case and that therefore he needed this retroactivity. I am not saying it is affecting the case, but I would like to know whether it is, as legislation sometimes does. I want to draw to the minister's attention again that I am talking about subsection 1(1b) which is in the middle of page 2 in Bill 71.

The other concern we have is with subparagraph 2(22)(ii), which allows for an exemption

provided that "the land is assessed as residential and comprises not more than three residential units." That has to do with the exemption for senior citizens and handicapped people. In dealing with this, I wonder whether it also applies to condominium units. If it does apply to condominium units, there may have to be an amendment because there would be more than three residential units in a building. Can the minister clarify that change to the present legislation?

Those are my primary concerns with this legislation. As I have indicated, we will support this bill. In particular, we support the sections with respect to the handicapped and the seniors, which will aid them in their desire to stay in their homes. We have concerns about some of the other sections and amendments the minister is proposing. Unless there is a clear indication as to why those sections have been included and what the implications of those sections are, we will be putting forward an amendment.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, tonight I am going to vote with my heart instead of my head. For many years now we on this side have talked about doing simple things that would help the handicapped and senior citizens stay in their own homes because much of what this government has done to them is punitive in nature. It raises their income tax, raises their property tax, gives them back a portion of that and attempts to pretend that in the long run the government always has their best interests at heart, when those of us who have studied the workings of this government know that is not necessarily always the case.

My heart tells me we should do whatever we can to help seniors and people who are handicapped and that we ought to support this bill. My head tells me a different story. I want to put that on the record because I think, oddly enough, six months from now my head is going to tell my heart it was wrong tonight, but I am going to let my heart take precedence.

My head tells me this is a bill that allows the municipalities to give a tax break to seniors and handicapped people. While that is a nice thing to do, in talking to people who serve on municipal councils, I find that nobody bothered to tell them, prior to the announcement of the Treasurer, of the wonderful gift of an assessment break for seniors and handicapped people.

To be fair and to try to make this thing work, this government should have done it in consultation with the municipalities. Most of the municipal people I talked to about this matter took an

attitude much the same as mine. However faulty the bill might be, however crude it might be for one level of government to tell another level of government to give these people a break, even people at the municipal level are prepared to say, "There are people in our municipality who deserve whatever break they can get, the handicapped being one group and seniors being another." There are others, I might add, that are not on this list.

In looking through the act, my head tells me there is a little looseness about it. I imagine there will be some arguments about who qualifies for this assessment break. In other words, who makes the decisions about people needing institutional care? Is it a medical decision? It probably is, by most measures these days. Is it a decision of an assessor? If so, it seems a rather strange domain for the assessment department in any municipality or region to have to delve into.

How retroactive is this? It looks as if it is retroactive to the date of the budget. What happens to all the people who got a building permit in the first part of May and began some renovations to their houses, for example, to provide access for a wheelchair? Are they out of business? Do they get the tax break? As I read the bill, they do not.

I imagine there will be some difficulty trying to explain to the people of Ontario exactly why on one magic day they qualify for this break on their property taxes when a week before they did not. What about dealing with those people who would not, by any stretch of the imagination, normally be considered suitable for institutional care, yet who require devices to assist them to get in and out of a house or require special equipment that necessitates a bit of renovation in a house? Who is going to call those shots?

Quite frankly, the government has left that up to itself. At some point later on, it will devise the regulations, put them on the books and publish them in the Ontario Gazette. Then we will find out whether this bill will actually do what the government says it wants to do. I have some doubts about that.

I wish my head would not remember this government's treatment of senior citizens over the years. I wish it would not remember that, primarily, it uses seniors and handicapped people in this province as a device to get votes. The structure of its program spends a lot of money on public relations, on public advertising, telling the seniors the cheque is coming, telling them the cheque is there, telling them they got the cheque.

That is a heavy emphasis on all this ministry has to do whenever it gives anybody a break.

In conclusion, I simply want to put on the record that, in principle, for a long time we have said the government should not punish people who are trying to stay in their own homes because of a handicap or because of their age. The truth is that the government of Ontario, through its assessment programs, has been doing just that for some time.

We should also get on the record that there is a certain exemption provided here, which will probably cause a reassessment to occur. It remains to be seen whether seniors and handicapped people will actually receive very much in the way of a total tax reduction. The application for a building permit, as the minister knows, will most likely cause a reassessment to take place in most municipalities. That reassessment has, at least in my experience in recent years, caused property taxes to escalate on an individual unit. While the minister purports to provide them with a break in their assessment here—at the expense of the municipalities, but none the less a break—it remains to be seen how much of a break it will be.

This is a bill whose stated intentions are good. Those of us who are a little cynical question whether it will actually achieve the practical purpose of giving those people a reduction in their property taxes. That may transpire, but it remains to be seen. On the principle of the bill, however, I will bet there is not a member in this Legislature who is not in favour of providing some tax relief to our seniors and to our handicapped citizens.

What we are voting on tonight, unfortunately, is a series of proposals that are not exactly nailed down as yet. It remains to be seen whether they will do much good for many people. Letting my heart take precedence over my head, I am prepared to support the bill in principle on second reading, but I want to serve notice that we intend to monitor the progress of this bill and the application of this program.

We will be very interested in seeing two or three simple things: first of all, what it does to municipalities. My first reading of the bill and my first examination of what it might do suggest it will have a minimal impact in most of our municipalities, but I think in some places, such as the west end of Toronto, it is going to have a fairly substantial impact on the mill rate. That will have to be monitored.

The second thing I think we should pay some attention to is exactly how much tax relief will result from it. We are going to have to wait some

time to see that. We are going to have to wait some time to see how fair the regulations turn out to be, how they are applied, how the appeals are heard and so forth. For debate on second reading, we are prepared to say we agree with the principle behind the bill. It is a concept most of us on this side of the House, certainly in the New Democratic Party, have supported for some time.

We did not anticipate a bill would be devised in this way which, in effect, would say the province is not going to do anything for anybody here. It is unfortunate the province is going to cause municipal tax people some reduction in income. To be fair, one would expect Ontario to offer some form of compensation to the municipalities for this loss of income.

Finally, we want to watch the implementation of this program because my head tells me one thing and my heart tells me another.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the bill is not particularly earth-shaking. The assistance provided to pensioners and a few of the handicapped who otherwise would require care in an institution does not amount to that much. I do, however, think the principle is a good thing and seniors and a few others can undertake improvements in their property without having their taxes increased.

At the same time, though, the minister who is in charge of assessment knows how complex this procedure has become and how confusing it is even to his officials, let alone the senior citizens who attempt to make some sense out of the assessment and the tax bill itself.

I have a feeling that the minister, falling in line with the procedures that have become so much an important part of government procedure, will be including a notice—probably with his picture, his signature and maybe an election button in case they need it some time in the future—to explain what he is doing for the senior citizens.

The cheque to assist in the payment of taxation probably will be delivered at another time, just before an election, along with the various other little goodies. They do not really amount to very much, but they are not quite small enough to send back with a letter of refusal and not quite big enough to make much difference. They sort of form the basis of Tory policy in this province in dealing with assessment taxation and particularly with the senior citizens.

While they are doing this, they are gradually reducing the provincial share of education costs so the school boards will have no alternative but to raise their funds by putting it on the tax bills;

they will simply increase the taxes by that amount.

The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) is as usual being squeezed out by his colleagues in the cabinet. He has less and less to spend on roadbuilding and less and less to spend on grants to municipalities. There is nothing the municipalities can do but turn to their one source of revenue, the property tax, to make up that deficiency.

As the cost of welfare goes higher and higher, we find the provincial government, in passing on the grants from the government of Canada, gets slower and slower in making those payments. The municipalities have to borrow money at high interest rates to pay out the amount that should be paid by direct subsidy and grant from Ontario for all these things.

This is just a very short list indeed. Mr. Speaker, having been as closely associated with these matters in Peterborough, as you have been and still are, you will know this is simply a short list.

The costs of municipal government are going up day by day because of the laxity in provincial policies. The senior citizens have to pay their share of these increased costs. In most instances this special favour to senior citizens, allowing them to improve their property without it going on the assessment roll or without triggering reassessment, is an interesting piece of window dressing. There are instances where it will be of value. A specific one is where handicapped people have to put on special additions, such as ramps, which otherwise might trigger a reassessment. If they did not have them, they would have to go into some institution. That is just common sense.

We have no hesitation in supporting the principle of the bill, but we should not get carried away with the generosity of the government to the senior citizens, because they end up paying through the nose anyway. Many of them have an increasingly difficult time in maintaining themselves in their own home. There is increasing pressure to give up and move into an institution. In many instances that is not a bad thing, but in general the pressure from assessment and taxation is a very serious pressure indeed for senior citizens. We in the Legislature ought to be designing programs that are more generous than this to assist them.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, the principle of the bill is an important one, at least in part. We have tried to argue with Ministers of Revenue for a long time that it makes sense to move towards a

notion that is common in many European jurisdictions. They grant people what one might call an assessment holiday if they make certain repairs to their homes.

This is the first step, or we hope it is the first step, with the government adopting the principle that it is a legitimate and important piece of social policy to grant assessment holidays to people if they make certain kinds of repairs. This is a very limited application of the principle of the assessment holiday. It applies to only two categories of people: senior citizens and those who have a physical handicap. There are even limitations imposed within those two categories.

Nevertheless, we welcome the adoption of the principle that people should be granted relief from increased assessment if they take the trouble to do certain kinds of repairs. I would have to say in parentheses that while it is laudable the government has accepted the principle, it is entirely characteristic that it has made a gift with somebody else's money. The actual money that will be paid to make up for the lost assessment will come essentially from municipalities rather than from the provincial government.

If the government is serious about using assessment holidays as an incentive for people to do certain kinds of things, it is incumbent on the provincial government to make grants in lieu of assessment to the municipalities. It is all very well to say the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto can afford to pick up the tab, but I would dispute that. Some parts of Metropolitan Toronto will have enormous difficulty picking up the tab.

The city of York will have an enormous amount of trouble paying for lost assessment. As we reviewed during question period today, the city of York cannot make the kinds of essential repairs to its sewer system that would prevent the pollution of Lake Ontario. The city of York is already in a state of crisis on a number of fronts because of its inadequate assessment base. Every time the provincial government makes adjustments to the assessment formula that impact on municipalities such as York, it seems the provincial government is failing to provide appropriate financial assistance.

That is the first point that has to be made. We welcome the acceptance of the principle of relief from assessment, but we wonder where the grants in lieu of assessment are. When the Minister of Revenue winds up on second reading or when we get to discussion in committee, I would like him to deal with the question of why he has not provided grants in lieu of lost assessment as part of this program.

Second, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) remarked that this needs to be monitored very carefully. I hope the Minister of Revenue will establish some kind of impact study to carefully monitor the success of the program; for instance, the number of people who take advantage of it and the amount of assessment that is involved as the program operates. Then, at the end of a year's operation, we will have a reasonable idea of how many people are making use of it, how helpful it has been and what the financial impact of the program has really been.

8:30 p.m.

I do not pretend to be an expert on the Never Never Land of assessment; however, as I understand the program, there is no limit on the amount of repairs or renovations which are covered in section 2 with respect to improvements for seniors and handicapped persons. I hope I understand that correctly, that the \$5,000 limit does not apply to seniors or handicapped persons.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: No.

Mr. McClellan: That is what I thought. I was trying to read the minister's lips. It is not always easy. One has to be selective in here when one reads lips. However, I am pleased that there is no dollar value on the limit of improvements for seniors and handicapped persons.

This leads me to a third and final point. The minister has also adjusted the basic exemption in the bill for improvements within, in the language of the bill, "the amount for an erection, alteration, enlargement or improvement to a house." This is something that is long overdue in communities like mine where the majority of the housing is 50, 60 or 70 years old and older.

The minister realizes that unless there are major provincial initiatives, we are going to have a major problem in deteriorated housing stock. I believe the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) has done a very comprehensive study of Ontario's housing stock within the past two years. He has established and documented in some detail that most of the housing stock in Ontario is in need of major repairs and major restoration.

There are a number of ways the government can proceed to preserve that housing stock for succeeding generations, and one of those is through the wise use of assessment policies. A \$5,000 investment in a house that is 50 or 60 years old is not going to go very far. I am sure the minister must realize that.

There may not be very many old houses in Mississauga, but the minister knows how much it

costs to put up drywall or to do brick or concrete work and how much it costs simply to paint a place if one is not able to do the work oneself. It is not very much money for the kind of work required for a lot of houses if they are to be preserved for future generations and not allowed to deteriorate beyond the point of no return.

I hope the government will take a good, hard, second look at that \$5,000 figure. Perhaps the member for Oshawa can recall whether the \$2,500 figure was originally established in 1971. In any event, the minister knows as well as I do the kind of inflation that has taken place since 1971-72, particularly with respect to the cost of building materials and the cost of labour in the renovation trades. He doubled the grant, but I venture to guess the costs have more than doubled since 1971-72. I am not sure he is even restoring the purchasing power of the 1971-72 dollar.

Again I am not an expert by any means, but I know how much things cost when one goes to the lumber yard and how much it costs to have a room drywalled, and \$5,000 is not going to go very far. I do not think it restores the loss of purchasing power that has occurred just from inflation.

To make a constructive suggestion, I think the minister should be setting up some kind of work group with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to try to address the problem that I know is a concern of officials in the housing branch of that ministry. That is the urgent problem of saving an awful lot of our present housing stock for the use of future generations.

I am not sure this government has its various policies and programs co-ordinated by any means. In fact, I am quite sure it does not. I expected not just an assessment relief program or an assessment holiday for senior citizens or handicapped persons, but some kind of assessment holiday for low-income people across the board to help them to absorb the cost of repairs and renovations that would bring their homes up to building standards.

A couple came into my constituency office on the weekend; they are pensioners with a combined income of about \$10,000. They have been hit with a work order for an older house in the south end of my riding; it will probably cost them somewhere between \$25,000 and \$40,000.

These were hard-working people whose only sin is that they are low-income pensioners. They cannot afford to pour money out of an \$11,000 pension into house repairs of that magnitude.

Their only crime is that they cannot afford to stay in their own home.

We used to have programs in place that would help such people to obtain low-interest money or grants. These programs are winding down, and we still do not have programs in place that would give them meaningful relief from the escalated assessment that would result.

The government has to understand that this is not an unusual problem in downtown, inner-city neighbourhoods where the housing stock is old and deteriorating. Quite frankly, it requires either a major infusion of a great quantity of cash to stabilize the house physically or a regular infusion of great gobs of money to stave off the deterioration bit by bit.

Without belabouring the point, I think the government has taken an important step, but it is a very tiny step in terms of the distance that needs to be travelled. I hope the minister will sit down with his colleague and that his officials will sit down with officials in Municipal Affairs and Housing and work out a co-ordinated and integrated strategy for dealing with the issue of housing conservation in the province.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not make a few comments concerning Bill 71, An Act to amend the Assessment Act. I am going to speak particularly to one section in the act, and I did bring this to the attention of the minister several days ago.

I made comments in this Legislature 20 years ago on a similar concept to that being incorporated into this bill, and I commend the minister and his officials for bringing that in. Actually, I think I made those comments in the early 1960s and not on March 18, 1964. Some comments were also made by the Liberal member for Dovercourt, Andrew Thompson.

8:40 p.m.

At that time I suggested that rather than putting elderly people in various facilities, where it would be substantially more expensive than it would be to follow the scheme that is being adopted here, funds should be provided to the children of the family so they could put an addition on their homes to accommodate their parents or the individual needing attention, rather than putting them into a nursing home or some other type of facility that would be substantially more expensive to the government as well as to the individual.

The minister is not doing it in exactly the same fashion as I had mentioned, but the concept is essentially the same and it is correct. I would like to commend the minister and his staff for looking

back on it and seeing there are cheaper ways and as good, if not better, ways such as the family taking care of the individual, the grandmother or grandfather. That would be by assistance, as I have mentioned, with a grandfather bonus. It is not necessarily a bonus to the grandfather, but it is assistance to children or someone to provide accommodation for grandparents.

That is the extent of my comments. I appreciate very much that the ministry has adopted that concept, but we have waited 20 years. We have punished our senior citizens over that time as a result of not adopting something that comes from an opposition member. Even opposition members have good ideas.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, we can consider this bill to be very much a part of what has become known as the smoke and mirrors budget, that is, a budget in which the government pretends to deal with a very serious problem but really is only giving a crumb and not meeting the main part of the problem.

One may have noticed that the day after the budget there was an advertisement in the newspapers telling people about this great concession they would get to reduce their taxes by putting in improvements for seniors or handicapped people in order to enable them to stay in their own homes. The ad must have been prepared long before the budget speech, but it was kept under lock and key in the newspaper vaults and it was ready for publication the day after.

I wonder how many senior citizens and handicapped people read it the next day and thought, "At last we are getting some real help in adjusting our homes so we can stay at home." But when we look at the fine print in the bill, we find we do not really know who is going to qualify or how much help they will get.

For one thing, this bill has the great tendency of this Conservative government to do everything by regulation. Under the regulations, the government can determine the types or classes of improvements or additions for which an exemption can be given. It will also be able to determine the classes of persons who may apply and businesses or undertakings that may apply to receive an exemption under this paragraph and prescribe the form and method of application and documents required. It is all going to be done by regulation.

We really do not know how many people will qualify. It may turn out to be like some of the other programs the government has brought in, such as the one to help parents with the costs of

keeping a handicapped child at home, for which, when we looked at the tests applied before they could collect, we found very few people qualified.

By not writing into the legislation the exact details about who will be covered, what kind of improvements and adjustments will be covered and how much red tape will be required before one can qualify, the government is not being honest with us.

As my colleagues have pointed out, it is also part of a budget where the government pretends to solve major social problems without spending any money. In this case, the people who are going to spend the money on these improvements are the taxpayers. If exemptions are given for assessments for other taxpayers, the remaining taxpayers will have to pay the shot because their taxes will go up to cover the total municipal cost.

I certainly agree with my colleague that we must urge the government to bring in some sort of compensation program for municipalities that have citizens applying for and receiving this assistance. It may be that the incidence of assistance needed would vary widely from one municipality to another. I think that is one reason for the provincial government to bear the cost, and not load this on to the municipalities as another cost while it takes the credit for giving great concessions to help seniors stay in their own homes.

This is only a drop in the bucket of the services that are needed to help seniors stay in their own homes. We still do not have an assistive devices program for anybody over 19. We do not have adequate Wheel-Trans to enable handicapped or older people to get around and enjoy the amenities of urban living. We have a long way to go before the government can really say it is encouraging people to stay in their own homes and out of institutions.

The cost of keeping people in their own homes, even with the assistance I am suggesting, would be so much less than putting them in institutions. I really cannot understand why the government is so stingy with this kind of assistance, yet continues to pay lipservice to its desire to help seniors and the handicapped stay in their own homes.

The final point I want to make is that the raising of the exemption for alterations to one's own home from \$2,500 to \$5,000 is not a concession at all, as my colleague has pointed out. It simply brings the \$2,500 figure somewhere up to present costs, but not as far as costs have escalated since 1971. It is really not a gift at

all. It is an adjustment that was long overdue. It should really be raised to a figure based on the increase in the cost of construction since 1971.

I think the government should go even further than that. As an incentive to encourage home owners to improve their properties, to fix up rotting porches, replace windows that are causing a loss of energy and things like that, there should be a five-year moratorium on any tax increase for improvements up to a certain level. Then there would be a real incentive.

Many home owners are discouraged by the fact that if they make improvements, the next year their taxes go up substantially. They often go up because the assessor has taken a quick look and made his own determination of how much the value of the property has increased. The home owner does not have time to appeal it. Perhaps it is not a big enough amount to justify hiring a lawyer. The assessor gets away with raising the taxes, the home owner feels aggrieved and his incentive to improve his property in future is greatly reduced.

That is another area where I would like to see the minister bring in an amendment to put a five-year moratorium on any increase for improvements up to a certain level.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I heard a somewhat repetitious discussion from across the House, all of it valuable, mind you.

Mr. Piché: What else is new?

Mr. Nixon: Where did that come from?

Mr. Breaugh: Do not heckle the minister.

Mr. Piché: I was talking about the opposition.

Mr. Breaugh: Such as it is.

Mr. Boudria: It is not nice to speak to the minister like that.

8:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I have my parliamentary assistant with me; that is nice.

I appreciate the unanimous support I sense, at least from that side of the House. I have heard the concern from both parties that we are taking away the taxing ability of a municipality by giving this benefit to seniors and increasing the benefit for everybody to \$5,000. Yet I keep hearing recurring arguments that we have not given enough. I know this is called sucking and blowing at the same time, but I am just wondering which way the members would like to have it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Please let me finish. I did not interrupt you.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, just to correct the record: What I said and what I think I heard the Liberal critic say was that it was very nice of the minister to use the municipal assessment rolls to give away this particular form of relief. We do appreciate that the relief should be given, but it would have been even nicer if he had given away his own money.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I was not commenting on whether the member is right on that point; I am saying we cannot have it both ways. We cannot say we are not giving enough in the way of assessment exemption and at the same time say that by giving any at all we are penalizing the municipalities. This seems somewhat strange.

However, the fact is that what we have is what we are offering in this bill. I do sense support from both parties. There are a few minor problems and I would like to address them.

The member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) is concerned about clause 2(1)(b) of the act as set out in subsection 1(1) of the bill, which concerns the power to define. The problem there is that we did not want to be too inflexible with this at the start because we are dealing with a group, old people and the disabled, with which it is pretty hard to get a firm definition of just what we are after. We did not want to be too structured in this, particularly because, it being a budget item, we did not have the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped. That is precisely why this clause is necessary at this point.

I hope the member will accept that, because we certainly are not trying to be too loosey-goosey with the bill at all. We do want to allow certain flexibility so we are able to—

Mr. Foulds: Is that parliamentary?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I think so. It depends how you want to accept it.

Mr. Breaugh: I think Lucy is okay, but the goosey has got to go.

Hon. Mr. Walker: That is “loosey.”

Hon. Mr. Gregory: At any rate, that is the explanation.

There were many things. We were talking about retroactivity.

Mr. Kolyn: Is that parliamentary?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: This place is wild tonight, is it not? It is all over here.

Most of the discussion, if we analyse what was said over there, was to the effect that the province is not giving away anything, and that is not the

nature of the bill. We are talking about assessment. We have heard members of council, particularly in Toronto, many of whom the members opposite identify with, say we should be doing this sort of thing. Now we are doing it. Which way will the members opposite have it? Are we penalizing the municipalities or are we not being good enough to the people? I think we have struck a fine balance here; I think we have done something for both.

The member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) was the one who was stressing that the \$5,000 was certainly not adequate. It might not be, but bear in mind that when we talk about \$5,000 market value, it is not necessarily the same thing as \$5,000 spent on a house. In other words, a \$5,000 market value increase on assessment could well be a \$20,000 expenditure or maybe even a \$10,000 expenditure.

Mr. Foulds: How are you going to do that?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Wait a minute now. Let us say, for example, that we spend \$10,000 improving a house; it does not necessarily increase the market value of that house by \$5,000 or \$2,000. So what I am saying is that just because we say we are going to increase it from \$2,500 to \$5,000, that does not necessarily mean a person can improve his house by only that much. Will the member accept that?

Mr. McClellan: I do not know.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: All right. Take my word for it. Have I ever lied to you before?

Mr. McClellan: I do not know if I understand that.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: At any rate, I do not think there is a lot more I can add. As I said, we did seem to zero in on those couple of points. If I missed something, I apologize, but I seem to hear the recurring theme. I believe I covered it, at least I hope I have.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

Mr. Breagh: It was my understanding that if we had only one amendment to deal with on Bill 71 we would go into committee of the whole House to deal with that one amendment. Since we have only one amendment it would seem to me that would be an expeditious way to proceed.

Mr. T. P. Reid: As usual, the work is expanding to fill the time available for its completion here. I thought we were going to do second readings on all three bills. I thought that was going to take a lot shorter period of time than

the first one has taken and then I thought we would go into committee of the whole House and do the three bills in committee. It does not seem to make sense to be switching back and forth from second readings to committee of the whole House, back to second readings and back to committee.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I had it from the House leader that we were to complete the second readings. I agree with the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid). However, I am not going to make a great big argument of it. I would prefer to keep to the second readings and then move to committee after that.

The Deputy Speaker: Our normal procedure, with due respect to the member for Oshawa, has been to deal with the second readings and then go into committee and deal with them.

Mr. Breagh: I was trying to help the government.

The Deputy Speaker: Fine. Then let us proceed with the next bill.

CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved second reading of Bill 72, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, this bill, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act, contains amendments arising out of proposals in the budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) of May 15, 1984. Some amendments are required as a consequence of the recent changes to the federal Income Tax Act, and other amendments are of an administrative or technical nature.

The budgetary measure being implemented by this bill relates to the income tax exemption for a new qualifying corporation on its active business income up to a maximum of \$200,000 annually for each of the first three taxation years of the corporation.

The income tax holiday for small businesses, which was first introduced in 1982 for two years, and extended for one more year in the last budget, will expire as scheduled on May 13, 1985. The new program, which is targeted towards helping with startup and young businesses, will come into operation after that date. However, a corporation incorporated prior to May 14, 1985, may qualify for exemption under the new program if it has not completed three taxation years prior to that date.

The budget also included a proposal which would limit the deduction in respect of loan loss provision and contingency reserves claimed by

banks for Ontario purposes. A bank will not be allowed to claim a deduction in excess of the amount claimed and allowed for federal purposes. The bill provides authority for the minister to make regulations for this purpose.

Another amendment relating to the small business income tax exemption programs arises out of the recent changes to the federal loss application rules and the Ontario tie-in with those rules.

9 p.m.

Under the new federal rules, a corporation does not have to apply the loss for a particular year against the income of the first eligible year. It can choose the years in which the losses will be applied. The bill changes this to make it clear that for Ontario purposes the available losses must be deducted from the income of the tax-exempt years. The losses that are applied in this way will not be available for setoff against the income for any other taxation year. This is in line with the 1982 budget statement of the Treasurer when the tax holiday program was first announced.

The federal government has made a number of other changes to the federal Income Tax Act, with which the Ontario Corporations Tax Act is closely tied. Some of the federal amendments have given rise to corresponding amendments to the Ontario Corporations Tax Act, and these are included in this bill.

Currently, if a taxpayer does not agree with the notice of assessment raise, he has to file a notice of objection within 90 days of the mailing of the notice of assessment. The federal act also requires the filing of a notice of objection within 90 days. However, the federal government in its budget of February 15, 1984, has announced that this period will be increased to 180 days. In anticipation of this federal change, this bill contains an amendment to provide that the time period for filing a notice of objection will be increased from 90 to 180 days.

In addition, the bill contains some technical and housekeeping amendments.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, we will be supporting this bill. It is one that probably no one in the chamber fully understands, including the minister, with respect.

I would like to express my concern with respect to the compendium of information. I do not say that in any unkind way, but there are some very technical things in it, which leads me to my first point. I do not know if I am particularly satisfied with the full information that is provided.

The three-year tax holiday for new corporations has been criticized by numerous people—by one of the small business organizations in particular—because the statistics indicate small businesses take anywhere from three to five years before they show a profit, so these corporations will not gain much assistance from this measure.

It is somewhat related to the last measure we heard about, where the government seems to be doing something, but in fact is doing very little. I forget the exact figure that was in the budget as to what this would cost the province. The figures I have been given say it will cost about half, if that much, in foregone tax revenues to the province.

The other section indicated by the minister was the amendments to parallel the recent amendments in the federal budget. There are a number of these share purchase tax credits that were in the 1983 federal budget, which basically allow companies to sell unused tax credits to investors in return for equity. There is a whole series that the minister indicated. I wonder if he has any indication or can indicate to the House if there are any costs to the Ontario Treasury of paralleling or getting in sync with the provisions under that 1983 budget. Is it going to cost the revenue coffers of Ontario any money to follow along and parallel the changes that were made in the 1983 federal budget?

There are a number of administrative changes with which we have no quarrel. There is the extension of time for filing and so on, as the minister has indicated, in parallel with the federal act.

Other than those few words, we are not happy with the provisions relating in particular to a tax holiday for these new companies. It seems to me anyone who started a new company in the last two or three years is entitled to a little more help than has been provided under this particular bill. As we and small business in this province are used to, a little is better than nothing from this government.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, as a number of articles responding to this proposal and the budget in general have pointed out, there are those who think the budget for small business people is great and others who think it stinks. I think I would fall into the latter category. Therefore, we will not support the bill on second reading.

In great measure, I think there are a couple of comments about this that must go on the record. In general, my objection to this particular bill centres on the fact that there is not very much in it which would assist most of what many of the

members of this Legislature would consider to be small businesses.

A tax concession or a tax holiday would apply to small business for a three-year period. If one wants this as a great theoretical breakthrough and if one is talking philosophy instead of pragmatic financial assistance, then one would probably be happy with this bill.

The government has paid lipservice to the needs of small business. It has identified one area where it could provide small business with some easing of the taxation process. For many—and I notice John Bulloch is one of them—this approach lets one's political philosophy get ahead of one's ability to examine the reality of the situation.

Bill 72 is a combination of the many things I think are wrong with government. First, it is a very complicated piece of legislation, as the members know by just looking through it. It parallels federal legislation. It appears to do something that would tax the banks. It remains to be seen whether this government is prepared to do very much in that regard.

I think the bottom line is whether it helps some guy or some woman who runs a small business in my community. The truth of it for that unfortunate citizen is that a tax holiday for the first three years of the small business is not much of a holiday since no tax would have been paid anyway. In many respects, the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) is right on. It parallels the previous legislation. It forgives taxation which would not have been paid.

One of the difficulties we have in dealing with this type of legislation is probably that from both sides of the House we approach it with our kind of political philosophies in tow, so to speak. I tried to look at it and talked to small business people in my community and said: "This is a bill which amends the Corporations Tax Act. What does it do that will assist you to stay in business? What would it do in a really concrete way to help you?" Their response to me was it would do nothing.

It is a nice theoretical win if one is a free enterpriser. However, if a free enterpriser reads this legislation, he will see this is hardly free-enterprise legislation. This is not legislation that allows a business to grow unfettered. This legislation puts a great many controls—forms to fill out, limitations—on businesses as they try to function.

Oddly enough, the two groups I discussed this with came from different philosophical bases. I would describe one group as being fairly avid free enterprisers. They were rather upset that

there is a continuation of regulations and that it is a very complicated way to proceed. They made reference to an article—

Mr. Boudria: Are those the member's corporate welfare chums?

Mr. Breagh: I do not have any corporate welfare chums, thank you. I will just quote briefly from an article in the *Toronto Star* written by George Brett. "This is the kind of thing which perplexes business people, particularly small ones starting out, trying to get in where the big fish are swimming. They have some difficulty in understanding, for example, that often the first taxation year, the period between incorporation and the first year-end, is less than a year."

9:10 p.m.

"If this happens under the Grossman tax holiday, you may find yourself with a smaller amount of income eligible for the holiday. So consider the tax holiday in choosing your year-end. If you think you are buying into business by buying an existing business, you should consider buying the assets, rather than the shares of the company."

These are the skills of the corporate world interpreted in legislative terms here. Many of the people I know who have begun a small business have not yet learned the corporate game. They do not have tax people sitting around at their beck and call. They do use accountants and lawyers, but they do not have them sitting around figuring out things to do. Their most common complaint is a valid one, that legislation such as this is written for the business person who has in his office or at his immediate command a battery of lawyers, accountants and advisers to keep his business in tune with new legislation.

For someone running a small operation with 10 or 15 people, starting out in the business world, it is all very new and all very confusing. The most common complaint is that there continues to be legislation written that is okay for the big, corporate world, which understands that legislation, is equipped to handle it and can afford the staff and the expertise to handle it all. For people beginning the process, this is a whole new world in which they admit they are inexperienced. What they want to do is to start a small business and make it grow, but it seems the laws in Canada and in Ontario are written against them.

In addition to getting a business under way, they also have to learn the corporate mindset and the legislative mindset that are around. They are immediately, although not of their own volition, entrapped in a snare of legislation, forms and

regulations. Even when a government sets out to do something to help them, very often they have difficulty understanding what the written word is.

I am not at all unhappy to oppose the legislation. I wish we had something that would go to the corporate world and do two things. One is at the bottom end of the corporate world where people are beginning the process in order to assist them in a concrete way. In a theoretical way, this bill does that. In a practical, pragmatic, concrete way, it does not. I think that is unfortunate because it may well have been the intention of the minister to do that. At that end of the business world, it seems to me governments ought to be doing things to simplify their lives and assist them in a direct way.

Time and time again in my constituency office, and I am sure many members face this, somebody will come in and say: "I am trying to start up a small business. What can I do? What help is available to me?" I have to explain to them all the development corporations and tax proposals that are now law or might become law in the foreseeable future. Their most common response is: "I am not equipped to handle that. If I were General Motors, I could handle it with ease, but I am not. I am one person with some initiative, trying to get started." They cannot cope with that.

At one end of the scale, where people are beginning or the business is relatively small in nature, it seems to me the laws are written against them, and I think that is unfortunate. At the other end of the scale, for people who do not need the government's help, it seems to me the help is there. I think that is a sign of a government which, as in this bill, has let its political philosophy get directly in front of its desire to do something positive for small business.

It is unfortunate that this bill does not help small business. I wish it did. It is unfortunate that it does not provide assistance to small business, as we very often do in this Legislature and in the federal parliament for big business.

It is not unfair to say that the reality is that governments in Canada and the United States did a great deal to turn Chrysler Corp. around. I just wish they would do as much, or an equivalent amount, to turn around small businesses that, in my community and every other community across Ontario, are starting up like mad. The initiative is there, but it is also dying like mad and that is unfortunate.

There are people who are working 18-hour or 20-hour days trying to get something established

and trying to hire people in their community. They are interested in making a good product and providing a good service but they find that the first day after they open up the door, they step into a maze of corporate law, such as this bill, which says on one side, "We are here to help you," but in practice is probably one of the major things that puts them under.

That is why I object to this bill. It says it does one thing, but in my view it works directly the opposite way. It says it helps people, but it helps those who would not pay the taxes anyway. It says it will go after banks and increase taxation on them when it really does not. When one looks at the parallels of taxation there, it is really quite wrong.

My major opposition to this bill is that it perpetuates what I think is wrong with government in this nation. Government has not yet learned that it is the small business starting out that needs assistance. The large, established corporations do not need help. It should stop catering to them and turn its focus to those that could actually benefit by assistance.

Many of us believe that in the long run our big corporate citizens are important to our economy. They certainly are in my town, but there must also be a place for someone who runs a small business operation. The tax laws should not be written to confuse that person and tax breaks should not be in place that are of little use to that person. That is where the assistance should go. Unfortunately, this bill does not do that.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) has mentioned the legal problems a small businessman can get into. Having been a small businessman in the past, I can appreciate what he is saying.

The small business people have never been able to have the expensive, sophisticated legal help large businesses have. That is not to be; we know that is going to happen. However, under the taxpayers' services in the Ministry of Revenue we think we offer a high degree of assistance to those people in sorting through the so-called red tape.

I will see that the member receives a copy of a report written for me by my deputy minister, which I would recommend he read to see the extent to which our taxpayers' services operate. I think he will be quite impressed, if he has not seen it before. I will be surprised if he has not; it is a best-seller. We are very conscious of the plight of the small businessman and we are going to do everything we possibly can to assist him in

maintaining his small business, except for making it grow a little larger.

The point was made by the member for Rainy River that this change does not affect small businessmen because they do not make profits for the first three years. What he is losing sight of is the older small businesses that become corporations. This gives them an advantage, an opportunity to extend the building of their businesses over the next three years. It is hard to dismiss that and say it is not a benefit. It certainly is. It is true that it is not a benefit to every small business, but it is there and it is a help to them.

The experience of the small business tax holiday has been much appreciated, contrary to some of the remarks I have heard. I could quote from an executive of the Canadian Organization of Small Business, Mr. Geoffrey Hale, who is very high on what we have been able to do for small businesses.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The minister did not hear his comments after the budget.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Hale is very supportive of what we have been able to do in this ministry and through our Treasurer. If the member reads carefully, he will see he has been very supportive of many things.

The member for Rainy River asked a difficult question about what the cost would be to put the provincial government programs in sync with the federal programs. I am told the cost is very minimal. It is more administrative than anything.

Mr. T. P. Reid: No lost revenues.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: No lost revenues; that is the best knowledge I have on the subject.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

9:20 p.m.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved second reading of Bill 73, An Act to amend the Small Business Development Corporations Act.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, this bill implements the proposals contained in the May 15, 1984, budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and contains some administrative amendments that are required for the effective operation of the act.

For the purpose of enhancing the performance of the resources allocated to the program, the budget included several proposals which are being implemented by this bill. Briefly, these proposals can be summarized as follows.

The total funding allocated to the program will be subdivided into three separate funds: one for investments only in northern and eastern Ontario, one for investments only in new small businesses anywhere in Ontario and a general fund which will be available for any eligible investment.

The maximum investment in one small business by any one or more small business development corporations will be reduced from the present \$5 million to \$2.5 million. One or more SBDCs combined will not be allowed to hold more than 49 per cent of the voting shares of a small business.

The definition of associate and members of the family will be amended to ensure that SBDC investments are directed to businesses whose shareholders are operating at arm's length with the SBDC investors.

The budget statement also stated that a small business receiving investment funds from an SBDC will not be allowed to use that money to repay any debt owing by that small business to a shareholder of the SBDC or to any associate of a shareholder. This measure will be implemented by an amendment to the regulation.

The federal government recently introduced a scientific research tax credit and a special recovery share purchase tax credit, which are available to investors in certain types of corporate securities. This bill provides that an investment by an SBDC in this type of share will not be considered an eligible investment under the SBDC program. At the same time, it also provides that shares issued by an SBDC will not be eligible for a grant or tax credit under the program if they also qualify for any of the federal tax credits. In this way, the two programs will not be allowed to piggyback on each other.

The bill contains other minor amendments of a housekeeping nature.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, we are reasonably pleased with this bill and will be supporting it. This is one of the few programs the government has come out with that has been fairly successful. We are not happy with the fact that the budget allocation has dropped from \$30 million to \$25 million. However, we are happy to see that some of this money is targeted for northern and eastern Ontario.

I have a question about that money. I presume it will be for businesses or corporations either resident or operating in northern or eastern Ontario. For example, they would not be able to have a head office in northern Ontario and operate in southern Ontario. I do not know

whether that is a particular problem, but I presume we are trying to get investment in those areas and that to fall under the provisions of this act, the SBDC requirements will require them to operate in northern and eastern Ontario and not simply to have an office there.

We are happy to see the government has reduced the ownership to 49 per cent. We are pleased that there has been a broadening of the definition of associate. I presume this was brought to the government's attention primarily because, amongst other things, of the Lake Rousseau proposition where a number of people were involved. The minister has already talked about the maximum investment in a single company going to \$2.5 million from \$5 million.

There is one amendment we will be putting forward that relates to the managerial fees. The Clarkson Gordon report mentions this, and on page 41 of that report it says:

"Based on our survey, in 49 per cent of the cases where managerial assistance was provided to the ESB, the SBDC or an affiliated company charged fees for that assistance. These fees vary from a few hundred dollars a year up to thousands of dollars a year based on normal hourly rates for management consulting. The average fee charged for 1983 was \$11,000 and in 14 per cent of the cases exceeded \$30,000."

It goes on to say, "The extremely high fees for managerial assistance would appear to defeat the spirit and intent of the SBDC Act."

One of the intentions of the act was to provide some managerial assistance for some of these small firms; but I think the minister would agree there gets to be a limit on this. It would appear the investments of some of the people investing in these companies are contingent upon receiving a contract, or providing services or materials, in return for the investment in the eligible small businesses.

I am going to be recommending an amendment that would require that any excessive management fees would have to be looked at and would ban the purchase of the management service as a condition of a small business development corporation investment in the small business.

For instance, I think this should be reported on form 10. That form could easily be amended, not by changing the legislation but simply through a regulation that would require that any managerial or consultancy fees to an ESB from an SBDC be noted on the form. If it appears to the regulators in the ministry that these fees have been excessive, then action can be taken by the ministry to see that the ESB is not being ripped

off, for want of a better phrase, by the people who are operating the SBDCs.

There are some other matters that have not been touched upon by the minister in this bill in relation to the Clarkson Gordon report; for instance, the public SBDCs that were referred to on page 36. Again to quote the Clarkson Gordon report:

"In theory, public SBDCs are a sound idea. They bring together small investors who cannot afford the large outlay of capital necessary to invest in a private SBDC. Public SBDCs could channel funds into Ontario venture capital that would otherwise be invested elsewhere. They could raise larger pools of capital, which could be invested in several small business, thereby spreading investment risk should one of those businesses fail."

The report goes on to indicate, as the minister knows, that the consultants in this case do not hold out much hope that these public SBDCs will be successful. I think this may be unfortunate, particularly when I think of the experience in the small towns I represent in northern Ontario, where they could be of great value.

It is interesting that in Atikokan, which suffered the loss of a couple of mines about five years ago, a number of small businesses have sprung up within the town itself. Of course, their problem had been one of capital formation, which seems to be the major problem for all small businesses. It might be that a better understanding of this part of the program might go some way to promoting that.

It might behoove the minister not to put his ads in the paper, because some of these ads are either incomprehensible or too complicated for people to understand. Seminars, perhaps in conjunction with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, might be a way of getting this message out.

9:30 p.m.

As I said at the outset, this seems to be one of the few programs that has had any success with respect to pooling capital and providing assistance to small business. Despite the fact that it has been relatively successful, with one or two problems, the program's budget has been cut back rather than expanded. I do not know whether that is because of bad experiences the ministry has had, but I want to devote a few seconds to talking about another fact.

Clarkson Gordon indicates that sometimes these companies or small business development corporations have waited for a year or two before having their audits done. In the meantime, the funds have often been released on receipt of an

affidavit from the company or the SBDC saying the necessary investment has been made per the requirements. The funds then have been released from the trust funds to the individuals or companies involved.

A quicker audit of these things might catch some things such as the Lake Rosseau proposition and some of the others the government has had a problem with. I realize the minister can charge the companies with fraud under the act or whatever the provisions are in there for that. However, sometimes by the time the regulators on that side get around to it, as we saw with the trust companies—Astra/Re-Mor and a host of others—the money is gone and the taxpayers and investors are left holding the bag.

With those few comments, I would ask the minister why some of the other recommendations of the Clarkson Gordon report were not followed. The one that attracted me in particular was the startup for young entrepreneurs. There should be special provision under the SBDC program for young entrepreneurs who, because of their youth, relative inexperience and lack of track record, have a problem in raising funds. This might be a vehicle for them. For them, it might be extended to the service sector, which is not eligible under the act at present. Then these young entrepreneurs we are all so fond of, and who otherwise may well be unemployed, might have an opportunity to get into these kinds of businesses; and they could grow up to be balding Progressive Conservative supporters.

Perhaps the minister in his comments will indicate whether he is contemplating further amendments to this act. I realize we are trying to get these matters through as quickly as possible following the budget, to put them in legislation and make the new amendments operable. But I would also like to know whether some of the other recommendations related to the Clarkson Gordon report will be implemented.

There is one further question I have dwelt on about the amount of funds available. This is a reasonably good program, but \$25 million does not seem to be a lot of money. If we can believe the Clarkson Gordon study, supposedly it has created 11,000 jobs or better. Also, according to the report and from my own knowledge, it has been an inexpensive job creation plan relative to some of the other programs at the federal and provincial levels. For instance, I think of Minaki Lodge and what that \$43 million created—but that is another story; we will not go into that one.

Since it was presumably such a success, and since it did supposedly create 11,000 jobs at a

relatively low cost to the province—and presumably these are also long-term jobs—I cannot understand why we are being so niggardly with this program. I wonder whether the minister is prepared, if the demand for this is out there, to go to his cabinet colleagues and ask for an expansion of this allocation in his budget.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, this is another bill which seems to have polarized a great many people in the business community. Some think it is great and others think it stinks.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Which side is the member on?

Mr. Breagh: Make a guess. I thought it was interesting to go through newspaper reports of this. I will give you two quotes that stand out. John Bulloch, of course, is well known as the president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. His comment on the budget in general, and this bill in particular, was, "If I was any happier, it would be immoral and disgusting." In his own quaint, turn-a-phrase way he may have put his finger on what is wrong with this bill.

Mr. McClellan: Immoral and disgusting.

Mr. Breagh: The words "immoral and disgusting" are not exactly ones that pop into mind when doing some noble deed.

The minister, in reply to the last bill, was bragging about Geoffrey Hale of the Canadian Organization of Small Business. I thought he had some good things to say about the Treasurer's efforts in this bill. He said, "His gimmick-a-day approach to youth employment and high technology amounts to little more than window-dressing while resulting in a lot more red tape." That gives both sides of the argument. It nails down that there are problems with approaching things in this way.

One of the reasons I oppose this bill is that I looked at the background material, which gave me some indication that from some perspectives this program did do some things. I think it is worth while to take a look at the Clarkson Gordon report and to examine how it works and what it does. One thing I was not able to get was a good breakdown of the purported 11,000 or so jobs. What kind of jobs are they? Are they long-term jobs or short-term jobs? What is the rate of pay? What is the job security? What are the benefits?

My guess, and I will put it on the record as a guess, is that they will tend to follow a national pattern that shows we are moving away from long-term, stable employment at relatively high rates of pay, comparatively speaking, with

benefit packages and job security, towards short-term employment, usually in service industries, usually at much lower rates of pay and with much less job stability.

The only point I want to make is that it is nice to say that some act of the government assisted in the creation of X jobs, but I think it is more accurate, and necessary, to examine what kind of jobs were created. Which sector of the economy were they created in? What do they do to the economy in general?

Even the most rabid free enterpriser I know understands the basic business fact that if there are a lot of people who are employed—let us stop there and say we are grateful they are employed at any job these days—but if they are paid low wages, they do not buy new cars, for example.

In my community there are a lot of rabid free enterprisers at General Motors, but they understand that somebody in a minimum wage job is not going to be buying a new Corvette this year or perhaps even a new Chevette. Those people are not a part of its marketing strategy; it is not possible to reach them. People in the furniture and large appliance industry understand that their market excludes those who may be employed but are employed at lower-paid jobs. There is an effect there.

9:40 p.m.

When one looks at this act, it depends on the perspective one uses. If one uses the perspective of small business enterprises, one of the most common complaints I get is that there is no financial assistance for them. If somebody wants to borrow \$1 million, there are sources for that. If somebody wants to borrow \$150,000, there are sources for that. If one wants to open up a plant that will employ 200 people, there are sources of financing for that. But if one wants to open up a business and employ 10 or 15 people, there is no place to get the money. If one can get the money, one can get it from a bank or a trust company just as easily as one can from any other source, such as this type of investment.

So from the business consumer's point of view, if you like, there are problems with it. Where you get support for this kind of legislation—and probably the reason it is written in such a way—is that from an investor's point of view the biggest bang for the bucks is available, and this type of legislation provides it.

I think it is important to note here that the basic purpose of the legislation is not to provide small businesses with financial investment moneys; the purpose of the exercise is to provide a good investment venue for groups of investors or

governments or whoever. I think that is the problem. I could even set aside my arguments about this if somebody would show me where the small business can go now for investment moneys. Can it go to a bank? Sure it can, but can it get any money there? Can it go to a trust company? Sure it can, but will it get the money? Will the small business development corporations do very much for it? That remains to be seen.

One of the unfortunate things about trying to analyse legislation like this is that it is often difficult to determine whether this concept works. I know the old rabid free enterpriser will take this concept and accept it as being traditional, workable and good for people who want to invest money. It is written in that venue; that is the purpose of this kind of act. But if you examine it from the other perspective—of which, frankly, I would be an advocate—that of either workers who need jobs or small business people who need some financial investment in their businesses to make them run, the judgement I would make is it does not fulfil this function very well at all.

I am not saying for a moment that it does not do anything for anybody; it does. But I am saying it is legislation and a concept that is written around that oldest of jingles, the biggest bang for the bucks. That is the purpose of the exercise; that is how this act is written; that is what it does.

As a byproduct, it may create some jobs, but we do not have a very good set of definitions of what kinds of jobs are to be created. For example, we do know that some good jobs are created at the management level; but if we are looking at an employment strategy that provides people with jobs of some stability, decent-paying jobs, with all the other ramifications in our local and provincial economies, I do not think this approach does that.

The consensus I reached among the people with whom I discussed it, and the reading I did, at least did leave the question open; it has not been proven to be a program that really does this. If you read the act, I think it not unfair for a moment to say this act is not written for small businesses; this act is written for investors. That is the purpose of the exercise, and the hope is that incentives to investors through small business development corporations will eventually flow down, trickle down—whatever the current, trendy phrase is—to real people who will achieve some benefit from it.

I have great difficulty with that philosophy; but, more important and more pragmatically, I

have greater difficulty with trying to determine whether that approach to it really does work. I have yet to find a small business that sings the praises of this particular concept, and I have yet to find one that has really benefited very much by it. I am sure there are some out there, and while I am sure the minister could take some time and read us chapter and verse, on balance, I cannot support the act. We will not support it on second reading.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of a very short response I would like to read a summary note from the Clarkson Gordon report, which has been quoted extensively here.

In the report's conclusion it says: "The small business development corporations program is successfully meeting its objectives of supporting small businesses in Ontario through the encouragement of new equity investment by the private sector. The program is well received by participants, is lauded by major small business organizations and the efficient administration by the Ministry of Revenue contributes to its success."

I would say—

Mr. Breagh: Who paid for the report?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is the report the member has been quoting from, but he did not quote that part.

Mr. Breagh: Answer the question. Who?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I said I read from the report's conclusions.

Mr. Breagh: Could the minister answer the simple question of who paid for the report?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I see; who paid for it is a part of the member's acceptance. The New Democratic Party of Ontario paid for it. Does the member believe it?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Actually, it was commissioned by the Treasurer. That brings me to whether—

Mr. Breagh: I can find some of our employees who might take a different view.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Whether or not the member respects that report, he used part of it to make some of his arguments.

The Acting Speaker: The minister will not allow himself to be distracted by the member for Oshawa's interruptions.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) asked me if some of the recommendations would be implemented or studied? I can only say we will continue to be

guided by this report and other experiences to improve the program as we go along. I too regret there is not more money to put into this program because it is highly successful. However, that is the way it is this year.

I was also asked to comment on whether the share of the funds which go to northern Ontario would have to be used there. Yes, this is so. The theory and aim is that the bulk of the money will be spent there. I understand at least 75 per cent of those salaries must be paid in northern Ontario. I think the answer is there. We are intending this program to do precisely what we are saying it is going to do.

We did get into the Lake Rousseau experience and whether we are properly auditing these. I can tell the members, as I have said before in the House, the Lake Rousseau experience is a good demonstration of how well the program is working. Even though the investment in Lake Rousseau has not turned out to be totally as it should be, the funds advanced by this government into the trust fund are still part of the fund and have not been released. As a matter of fact, there has been no request to release them. They are still there and frozen. We do not have too much to worry about that; we might have worries with the Lake Rousseau project in its entirety, but not with our contribution to it.

Mr. Breagh: Could the minister consider making it a Minaki South?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Either the member for Rainy River or the member for Oshawa asked if I would be prepared to ask for additional help to make it function if the program proves successful. I am not above asking for additional help from the Treasurer, Management Board of Cabinet, or anybody else. Whether I will get it is another matter. However, I would be prepared to ask because I do believe in this program.

It is a program that is being copied by many other provinces. I heard today that Alberta has adopted a totally identical program, even to the point of legislation, without giving any credit to the government which showed them how to do it. Saskatchewan has also done very well; even Prince Edward Island. They are all copying our program which is so excellent in its approach.

Mr. Shymko: What about Manitoba?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I do not know about Manitoba. Manitoba is a little behind the times these days. They are not quite up to scratch on these investments. After a change in government, they might well make a change.

With those short comments—

Mr. J. A. Reed: How about management consultants and fees?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Yes, I have something on that if the member can give me a minute. I cannot find it. Can I get back to the member on that? I think I can comment. I cannot lay my hands on it right at the moment, but I will get back to him on that.

9:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved second reading of Bill 73, An Act to amend the Small Business Development Corporations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 71, An Act to amend the Assessment Act.

On section 1:

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, this section of the bill seems to give extraordinary powers to the minister. That has not been necessary before. We are dealing with one small new section regarding the handicapped and people 65 years of age and over, and it does not seem to be necessary to have a whole new section for definitions.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Are we discussing an amendment that has not yet been moved?

Mr. Chairman: I thought he had a little preamble in preparation for moving the amendment.

Mr. Breagh: The member is just warming up, as they say.

Mr. Chairman: I thought he might be.

Mr. Breagh: Would he let us know if there is an amendment?

Mr. Epp: Of course; I thought he was bilingual and had read my English version earlier.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Epp moves that subsection (1)(b) of section 1 of the bill be deleted.

Mr. Epp: I would like a fuller explanation with respect to the use of the extraordinary new powers the minister has taken upon himself. I do not see the need for it when one considers that there is, as I see it, just one small addition, for the age category 65 years and over and the handicapped, for the break in assessment on their properties up to \$5,000.

Mr. Breagh: Could I get some clarification from the chair as to the exact meaning of this? I seem to have some confusion. Perhaps I do not have the proper amendment here.

The amendment I have is that subsection (1)(b) of section 1 of the bill be deleted. My reading of the printed bill before me is this amendment would take out the minister making regulations and prescribing forms for the purpose of this act. There seems to be a bit of confusion.

Mr. Chairman: As I read it, clause 2(1)(b) of the act under subsection 1(1) of the bill is "defining any word or expression used in this act that has not already been expressly defined in this act." The mover of the motion might clarify that.

Mr. Breagh: I would like some clarification as to exactly what the amendment means.

Mr. Chairman: Are we correct? Is the committee correct in its understanding? Clause 2(1)(b) of the act reads "defining any word or expression used in this act that has not already been expressly defined in this act." The amendment by the honourable member is that the clause be deleted.

Mr. Epp: That is the section we are talking about.

Mr. Chairman: The honourable member is then saying that—

Mr. Epp: If that is what the chair wants, then it is the same section I am talking about and we would like that deleted.

Mr. Breagh: Would someone please put on the record exactly what it is he is deleting? It would be a help.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) could help us.

Mr. Epp: The chair says that is clause 2(1)(b). I will read it, "defining any word or expression used in this act that has not already been expressly defined in this act." That is the section I want deleted.

Mr. Chairman: We do have a motion before the committee. Would it be correct then to say—and the mover of the motion might help us with this—it is the member's intention to remove section 1 of clause 2(1)(b)?

Mr. Epp moves an amendment that the clause that reads, "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations... (b) defining any word or expression used in this Act that has not already been expressly defined in this act," be deleted.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, you will have to excuse me. I could not hear what you said. I

have not seen what has been moved but whatever it is, I ain't for it.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I believe there is some confusion. The amendment I have says "subsection (1)(b) of section 1 of the bill be deleted." With great respect I believe what the member wants is section 1, subsection 2(1)(b).

Mr. Chairman: It appears we have exhausted all discussion.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: We cannot accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Epp's amendment will please say, "aye."

All those opposed will please say, "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Epp: I asked the minister earlier for an explanation and he did not come forth with it. That is another reason I asked for this to go to committee. I refer to an explanation for section 2 of the bill which says, "Section 3 of the said act is amended by adding thereto the following paragraph..." Under that we have a section on page 3 of Bill 71—so the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) is clear—which says, "The land is assessed as residential and comprises not more than three residential units."

Earlier, I asked the minister whether this refers to condominium units and whether that means any building that has more than three condominium units is therefore not eligible for this break in assessment. He did not reply earlier and I wonder if he is going to respond to that now.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I do not think I heard that question, but no, we are not referring to condominium units.

Mr. Epp: Is the minister saying if one is a senior citizen or if one is a handicapped person and in a structure with more than three units in it, one cannot make any changes to the condominium unit because there are more than three units in it?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is not quite what I said. I said one can make application wherever one lives. However, the point is there are certain rules and regulations, one of them being it must be not more than three units. We are referring to rental units, not condominiums.

10 p.m.

Mr. Epp: But they are still part of a building, a structure that has more than three units. Is the minister saying that if one has a condominium unit and there are 40 condominium units in that building, which has a common hall and corridor,

or one has a town house with a number of units, one is eligible or not?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: If they are condominiums and there are three units or fewer, they will be applicable.

Mr. Epp: I am sorry, I do not want to belabour the point, but it is very important. There are apartment buildings that have more than three condominium units. They are condominiums owned by individuals and there are sometimes common areas in those buildings. They are like apartment buildings but they are condominiums. Are they exempt or not? I appreciate that the minister does not understand what a condominium unit is.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I can do without the sarcasm of this member from the boonies. I know exactly what a condominium is.

Mr. Chairman: None of that language is necessary.

Mr. Breagh: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: People from Mississauga cannot call anybody "from the boonies."

Mr. Bradley: Wait until they hear that in Waterloo North.

Mr. Chairman: With all due respect, all honourable members, we have had discussions on language in the House and in committee—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Would the minister wait one moment please. We know language that is likely to incite and create disorder is not appropriate. The minister has made a comment. Do you have a comment?

Mr. Epp: Make him withdraw it. Waterloo is not the boonies.

Mr. Chairman: The minister would help the process if he would withdraw it.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, if the member feels bad about my referring to Waterloo North as the boonies, then I do withdraw it, with great apologies, but I think he should watch his sarcasm as well.

I have asked my staff to help me with this problem because it is a rather fine point. I am told that in the definition under this act, condominiums are single units, separately owned. The number of units does not matter, and it includes all sizes under condominiums.

Mr. Epp: This is very important because the point will come up. Does that pertain only to the actual condominium unit, or does it pertain to a common hall which might have to be changed to accommodate handicapped or senior citizens, if

they need to change the hall, staircase or ramp? That is the kind of thing I am trying to find out.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: My understanding of condominiums, much as I am told I do not understand them, is that they are individual units and their owners also own part of the common areas. I would expect owning part of the common areas would make them part of the unit owned by the condominium owner. That being so, I expect it would be applicable to all the members who own condominiums and if all are seniors and jointly apply. At least that is my opinion, with my lack of understanding.

Mr. Epp: Therefore, they would be exempt.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Yes. I can repeat it again if the member wants.

Hon. Mr. Walker: But he will not take yes for an answer.

Mr. Breagh: I would appreciate the opportunity to nail this down. There are a number of types of residential accommodations, condominiums being one. Co-op units also come to mind as units that might be hazily dealt with under this bill. I want the record to show clearly the minister has said that the intention is, if I can put words into his mouth, that if the rules and regulations do not follow that intention, they will be changed subsequently.

The intention is to include a house, condominium or co-op unit, whatever the nature of the unit; is that the approach the government is looking at? It is not saying that because there are 50 co-op units or condominiums in a building, the people will all be disqualified. I want it clearly on the record that the intention of the minister is that an individual property owner, whether in the co-operative sense, or in the condominium sense, which is somewhat different, all those people will be considered under this exemption.

I will give the minister a chance to gather his kind thoughts before he replies.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, the same rules would apply to a co-op as apply to a condominium. They are the same thing.

Section 1 agreed to.

Sections 2 to 8, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 73, An Act to amend the Small Business Development Corporations Act.

Sections 1 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 6:

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to section 6.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Reid moves that section 6 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(3) Section 12 of the said act is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(2a) Subsection 2 does not apply to the purchase of management services by the small business from the small business development corporation, any of its shareholders or any of its associated or affiliated corporations of any of its shareholders, unless:

"(a) the fees paid for the management services are excessive, or

"(b) the purchase of the management services is a condition of the small business development corporation's investment in the small business."

Mr. T. P. Reid: Just a word of explanation. This simply follows along with what I said during discussion of the bill on second reading. Obviously, part of the idea behind the SBDCs was to provide some managerial expertise to a small firm that otherwise might not be able to acquire it.

As we have seen from Clarkson Gordon, I think 14 per cent of the firms so involved had managerial fees of more than \$30,000. I do not know what the total revenues of those particular companies were, but it seems to me that \$30,000 for managerial fees is somewhat excessive.

The point of this amendment is to ensure that those managerial fees can be charged, but if they are excessive, then it would appear the investors in the SBDC are saying to the eligible small business, "Listen, if you do not use our consulting or managerial services, we are not going to invest in your company." What might loosely be termed as some blackmail may be involved.

I just want and expect that the ministry, in doing its audit, would keep track of these managerial fees and, if they are excessive, would require that the SBDCs should not be forcing the companies in which they are investing to pay excessive rates for this kind of service.

Mr. Breagh: In my view, the member for Rainy River has proposed an amendment that is supportable. It does plug one little hole in the dike. It seems to me the minister would be well served to consider this amendment. It is a friendly amendment. I do not believe it would destroy the principle of the bill at all and it would be a very useful amendment to have accepted. We will be happy to support it.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, we cannot accept the amendment in view of the fact that we have only just received it and have not had an opportunity to study the implications.

I do have some remarks, if the members can bear with me. I can give some information regarding management fees and the view of the ministry.

One of the objects of the program is the provision of management services to small businesses. If it is the intention of the small business development corporation to provide services, the ministry requests a copy of the draft management agreement. The draft is reviewed to ensure that the fees are reasonable and that the services to be provided are specified.

In some cases, the principal of the SBDC works full-time for the small business applicant and fees in the \$30,000 range, such as mentioned by the honourable member, may not be unreasonable. The Clarkson Gordon report—

Mr. Breagh: This is one of the minister's better speeches.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Am I convincing my friend? It has taken me quite a while to write down these notes while I have been listening to the members; I hope they appreciate it.

The Clarkson Gordon report suggested the fees could be negotiated at the time of the investment by the SBDC. The approach by the ministry ensures that the management fee is acceptable and will be evaluated as part of the overall return to the SBDC on its investment.

The ministry uses its power under—I cannot read this word; what does that say?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: “The ministry uses its power under its spirit and intent...”

Hon. Mr. Gregory: —under its spirit and intent to turn down proposals involving inordinately high and excessive management fees.

I can suggest one thing as a result of this great debate: The personal staff of the minister from here on in is going to take writing lessons.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Perhaps the minister should take reading lessons.

Mr. Shymko: Or else he needs new glasses.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I could not even read it with my glasses.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Reid's amendment will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 6 agreed to.

Section 7 to 10, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gregory, the committee of the whole House reported two bills without amendment.

The House adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

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- Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
- Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
- Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
- Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
- Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
- Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
- Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
- Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister of Revenue (Mississauga East PC)
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- Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)
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- Walker, Hon. G. W., Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)



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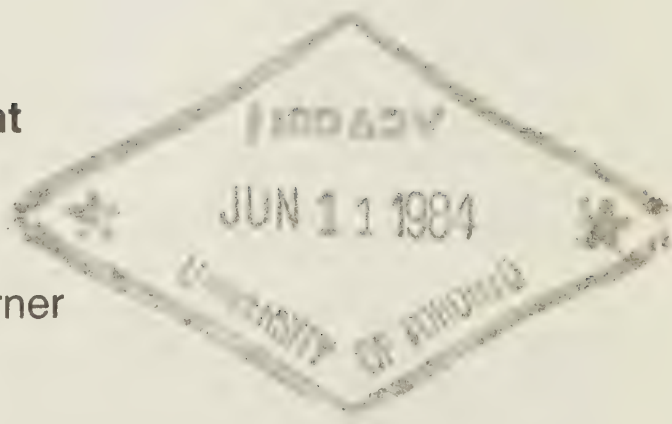
Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Friday, June 1, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, June 1, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

INJURED WORKERS' DAY

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: As you know, at this hour several hundred injured workers are outside this place attempting to demonstrate their need for changes in our workers' compensation laws in this province. This day, June 1, has been declared Injured Workers' Day.

I am sure you are aware that the organizers and groups that represent these injured workers have asked that this Legislature rise in tribute to those workers who have been injured and who have died on the job and observe a minute of silence in recognition of the contributions they made to this society.

I ask at this time if you would ask the House to give unanimous consent for this House to rise and give that minute of silence, which I note was observed at Toronto city council earlier this week.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, speaking to the same point of privilege, I ask you to give serious consideration to that request. It is something those of us in the New Democratic Party support with all our heart. Many of the people who are demonstrating outside today are constituents of ours who have come from our ridings to make their case before the Legislature today. We ask that we observe a moment's silence for the enormous suffering many of them have experienced.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the request that has been made by the member opposite and supported by the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). The people who are gathered outside today are very decent, very concerned and in some cases very frightened people. I know a show of support from this Legislature will mean a great deal to them. I hope the Legislature will stand in a body and recognize their contributions to the industrial growth of this province.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Since it is unanimous, I ask all members in the House to

stand and give one moment's silence in respect for injured workers.

The House observed one minute's silence.

ORAL QUESTIONS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I was hoping the minister would have an announcement today in recognition of the people who are demonstrating today in front of this House. I am sure he is personally familiar with some of the deep frustrations felt by people who are forced to gather at our front door to press their case before the government because of the years of delay and the refusal of the government to take action in this matter. I am deeply disappointed that he has chosen not to respond to those real and cumulative frustrations that are developing across this province.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Question?

Mr. Peterson: There is not one member of this House who does not know in a personal way, through his or her constituency responsibilities, of hundreds and thousands of individual cases of virtual desperation because of the failure of this government to move.

There is obviously a short-term problem and a long-term problem. Will the minister at least promise to bring in immediate changes to the benefit levels for this year and not let any long-term plans he has with respect to the implementation of the Weiler report interfere with a call for immediate justice, i.e. raising the benefit levels before we leave this spring? Will he make that solemn commitment now, not making it contingent on any long-term changes but at least providing a little temporary relief for these tens of thousands of desperate people in this province?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I have no quarrel with that question. First of all, maybe I could go back a bit. The Leader of the Opposition has asked why I have not brought in the amendments today in concert with the demonstration. I spoke yesterday to one of the leaders of the injured workers' groups, and I indicated there

are several reasons why we have not yet introduced the amendments. One of them was that I would have thought it would be hypocritical to have brought those in yesterday or today to pre-empt the demonstration. However, I have made a commitment to this Legislature and to the injured workers' groups to bring in the amendments before this session concludes.

I will give serious consideration to the points this member and members of the third party made yesterday and earlier this week. The very least that can happen is that the benefits will be retroactive to July 1. We will have to look at whether we can split the bill, in context with several other factors. I will give it every consideration.

10:10 a.m.

Mr. Peterson: I am one of those who is very concerned that this legislation will be brought in during the last two or three days of this House. There will be a great deal of pressure to pass it in a hurry, without the thoughtful reflection on the long-term changes that are necessary in terms of workers' compensation legislation in this province. That is why I am asking the minister at least to split out the benefit portion so we can move on that immediately. I put that suggestion to the minister in a very serious way.

In addition, we obviously need long-term changes to the act. Will the minister bring in that legislation in specific terms? We have had enough discussion. We have had enough committees. We have had enough reports. We have had enough points of view. Now is the time for action. Is the minister prepared to bring in that legislation this spring, amending the long-term structural problems in the workers' compensation system?

Will the minister give his solemn commitment that he will not abolish the pension? I would like to see it on record that the pension will exist but that, in addition, a wage loss system will be added to it. Will the minister make that commitment today in the House?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Addressing the latter part of the question, I have to be consistent. I indicated yesterday to the honourable member's colleague that I was not going to get involved in debating or discussing the details of the amendments prior to their introduction. I maintain that position. However, the member brought up an interesting point. I agree this thing has been studied to death. We have had committee hearings across the province and so on for many years. The Leader of the Opposition is suggest-

ing we bring it in and give it speedy passage. I would love that.

On the other hand, I have been told there are those in this Legislature, and those outside, who would like to see it go to committee this summer to be studied and assessed in the committee context. I am flexible. If the member would rather skip the committee procedure stage, I would be happy to do so.

Mr. Rae: We do not know what the minister is going to do yet.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The honourable member should wait a minute. On the other hand, I think in all fairness this bill should go to committee and have a thorough airing in that forum.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I know the government would not want to leave itself open to the charge that it was prepared to observe a moment's silence for the injured workers of this province but was not prepared to do anything practical and immediate for them and their families. I know that is the kind of feeling the government would not want to leave alive in the minds of injured workers in this province.

The Acting Speaker: Question?

Mr. Rae: What possible objection could the minister have to an immediate increase in the level of pensions and benefits? Regardless of all the other reforms, what possible objection could the minister have to that, knowing it would get unanimous and speedy passage in this Legislature? Let him bring it in today and we will do it today.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I will only repeat what I said earlier. I do not think that suggestion is unreasonable. I have to look at it, though, in the context of some other problems we have. I will give it every consideration. The very worst that can happen is that the benefits would be retroactive to July 1.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the minister as sincerely as I can that it is not acceptable to those men and women who are injured in this province to have some retroactive benefit again this year. The precedent we established last year in bringing this amendment forward in June and passing it before this House adjourned is the proper one.

The Acting Speaker: Question?

Mr. Wrye: Let me return to the major issue that Professor Weiler referred to, the white paper struggled with and the committee struggled with: the issue of the permanent disability pension. I am not asking the minister for specifics and details. However, will the minister give a

commitment to the injured workers of this province, in the House today and when he speaks on the steps of the Legislature later, that the long-term changes dealing with the issue of permanent pensions will put an end to the notorious meat chart once and for all?

As the minister will remember, Professor Weiler said the meat chart was entirely discredited and must be replaced. Will the minister make a commitment that when his long-term changes come in—and they should come in this spring as well, after the short-term changes—we will scrap the notorious meat chart once and for all?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, let me share with the honourable member what I intend to say out on the steps of the Legislature a few minutes from now. I have read their petition, which I was given in advance—I appreciate that—and I am confident the amendments I bring in will address many of the concerns in that petition, and particularly two of the major concerns.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Minister of the Environment concerning Ontario's ongoing embarrassment in the court in the United States with respect to the S area.

We discussed the competence of his ministry and his counsel on other occasions in this House when the minister tried to defend the indefensible. The minister said he had one of the great environmental lawyers in the United States working for him. He said he had worked for the Sierra Club. We contacted the Sierra Club and they had never heard of him.

We recognized yesterday that we were again embarrassed when he presented information that was factually wrong. He asked for a modification of the agreement, but in the US legal system, he could only ask for an acceptance or a rejection.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Question?

Mr. Peterson: He also tried to argue that public policy reflected in the bills in the US Congress should be part of the agreement, yet that argument was rejected out of hand because those bills were only at the bill stage, they had not been passed, and were not part of public policy in the United States. The embarrassment goes on.

The Acting Speaker: Is there a question?

Mr. Peterson: What steps is he taking, as the minister responsible, to clean up Ontario's act

immediately and put forward a cogent, thoughtful case?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, the case in fact was concluded on May 30. The final arguments in written form were put forward by the province's representatives, the lawyers who are acting on our behalf.

I have to say to the honourable member again that if there was any embarrassment whatever caused with respect to the case that is under way in Buffalo, it has been caused by the Leader of the Opposition. More than anyone else, he has been trying this case in this forum rather than allowing it to be tried, as it should be, in the district court in Buffalo. Frankly, I do not understand this constant barrage of questions about the nuances and why our lawyers said one word or another word at a particular time.

I want to assure him again that the firm representing Ontario in this matter is a most reputable firm. If he does not believe that, then why does he not say it outside this chamber? Why does he not indicate that so they can take whatever action they feel is appropriate from that point on?

Mr. Peterson: I will. I will say it right outside.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am not finished, Mr. Speaker. I allowed him to speak.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: In addition, I want to say—

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister threatening me with a lawsuit? What kind of cheap intimidation is that nonsense?

The Acting Speaker: Order. Is the minister finished answering the question?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: With respect to how we are handling this case, all observers, except for the very narrow pipeline that the Leader of the Opposition appears to have to this particular case, indicate that we have handled the case in a most responsible way and that we have put forward the position of not only Ontario but also Canada in this particular respect in a fashion that would be most satisfactory were the Leader of the Opposition sitting there and watching it. I have no reason to intervene or interfere in any way, shape or form with a case that is under way in the district court in Buffalo.

Mr. Peterson: Let me tell the minister that I have nothing to fear if his lawyer, Mr. Sunderland, wants to sue me, because obviously he is not very good. He would not be very successful. I

could beat him even if I had the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) as my counsel.

Has the minister learned any lessons from this débâcle? He refused to enter the Hyde Park dump case. He entered the S area case late and ill-prepared and has embarrassed himself. What are his plans on the 102nd Street dump? What representations is he going to make? What is going to be his position? Is he going to be well prepared this time in conjunction with the competent, thoughtful interest groups that have done so much work in this area and whose advice he has rejected?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It was not this province that denied the interest groups the right to intervene in the case with respect to the S area site that is under way now in the district court in Buffalo. That was the determination of Judge Curtin and the district court of the state of New York. It was their determination and not ours.

The lawyers the Leader of the Opposition talks about virtually on a daily basis, and who he indicates are incapable of putting forward or unable to put forward a good position on the part of this province, are the very lawyers who won Ontario the opportunity to intervene in this case.

That was their first victory. I am quite confident that no other lawyers I can think of would have been able to put forward a more solid or more representative case on our behalf than the lawyers we have engaged.

With respect to the 102nd Street site, we have not as yet made a determination as to whether we are going to intervene or not. That will come in due course. I will be most happy to share, as I did in the S site, that information with the member well in advance of our interventions at that particular time.

I want to say one final thing, if I might, with respect to the comments made about us being ill-prepared. Let me simply suggest to you that there is no environment group anywhere that I am aware of that could have put forward a more comprehensive and effective case than Ontario and the Ministry of the Environment. Frankly, no one knew more about that site than we do. I am quite confident we are handling it most capably.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would say to the Leader of the Opposition that just because he is wearing a badge today does not mean the Attorney General would do a good job defending him.

I am not going to get into talking about whether the lawyers were competent or not. I am

concerned about the conduct of the ministry and the minister.

If the ministry knew so much about the S area site, why did the ministry not specifically ask for immediate excavation of the site, since that is the test he applied here in this Legislature? Why was that not made as a principal argument at the hearing in Buffalo, and why was there no evidence presented which specifically showed that the short-term viability of the remedial work was not adequate?

A member of my research staff was at the hearing yesterday. There was a real concern about the case presented by Ontario, a general feeling in the courtroom that the case which was presented was not the case which the minister has been talking about so proudly on the floor of this Legislature.

The evidence was not there, the witnesses who should have been called were not, and the specific arguments that were needed to be made were not made. Why not?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the only reason one witness was not called in this particular case is that the evidence was changed on the part of Occidental Chemical. The member for York South knows that. I have discussed that on numerous occasions in this House.

The case the member is putting forward, the proposals with respect to what Ontario should be doing, are exactly what we said in court. We said—

Mr. Rae: It is not.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Well, if the member will listen very carefully, I will try to explain it. However, I cannot guarantee comprehension on that side of the floor.

The reality is we put forward a case which suggested, in the short term, that the retention of that particular contaminated soil on that site would not present a hazard. However, we went on to say that the only long-term solution that would be acceptable to Ontario was complete removal and treatment of the contaminated soil.

That is exactly what we said in court. That is exactly what I have been saying in this Legislature, and that has been our position consistently throughout this entire case.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, is it not true that part of the preparation of the legal firm representing the Ontario position was to hope and pray that the public interest groups would enter the fray as amici curiae, since he knew they had the evidence available from the experts they had retained, and from the information they had gathered?

Is it not true the minister's great counsel was there, praying that the lead would be taken by the attorney acting for that public interest group, to take his hand through the proceedings in that court? Did he not realize that particular attorney knew what was going on and would then put the case for him and he would not have to make the preparations which were obviously not made?

Will the minister agree he was hoping and praying that, as *amici curiae*, the public interest groups would carry the can for us and that his ministry would reap the benefits of the success they would have achieved there?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I guess it is confession time. I have to admit to the member that on occasion I do pray.

Specifically with respect to the case the member is talking about, I was not praying for any assistance on the part of any outside group. Although I have never raised this question with them, to the best of my knowledge I do not believe our legal representatives in Buffalo were praying either.

I can only tell the member that we were well aware that Ontario was going into this case alone. I had suggested to some of the public interest groups, including Pollution Probe, that we welcomed their assistance on this case. I am still quite surprised they did not come forward and participate in whatever fashion was available to them.

The member knows there were areas of participation open to them in the designation they were given by the courts, which is known as friends of the court. I cannot answer the question as to why they did not come forward. The member would have to address that question to Pollution Probe.

However, I can say that short of praying, yes, I would have welcomed their assistance on this matter, but we were quite prepared, quite able and quite capable in every respect of proceeding with this case alone. That is exactly what we have been doing.

The Acting Speaker: Before we have further questions, I compliment the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston). If more questions can be posed as single questions rather than being multitiered, multifaceted and multidirectional, with many questions within the same question, we would have a question period where more members could participate.

Mr. Rae: On the same line of questioning, can the Minister of the Environment explain why the first witness called by the ministry, who was supposed to be an expert on toxic waste disposal

technologies, had not visited the site and did not present any evidence about the cost of such a plan?

I think that is an important question. It attacks the credibility of the witness and the effectiveness of his testimony before the court. Why did the ministry not arrange for its expert witness to visit the S area site before he testified?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The witness the leader of the third party is talking about was an expert witness on hazardous wastes and toxic materials. There was no need for him to visit the site. He knew the contents of the site. They were well known to all the participants in this case. It was our feeling and the feeling of our lawyers that there was no requirement for him to take a look at the site.

When one goes to look at these toxic waste sites, by a visual review there is no way of determining the level of contamination without a series of samplings, inspections and reviews in a very technical sense. It was not required of him to go to the site and take a look at it. It would look like any similar mound of dirt that could be located in the state of New York or in Ontario. That would have served absolutely no purpose whatever and, I might add, played no significant role in this case.

Mr. Rae: I think there are a number of observers who would disagree with what the minister has just said as to the effect of the critique by the other side, saying that the individual expert had not even visited the site and did not present any detailed cost plans with respect to excavation.

Why did the minister not ask specifically for excavation of the site? Why did he not present specific evidence as to how that could be done and how much it would cost, which would directly challenge the agreement that was being put forward before the court? There was no direct challenge to the agreement. Why did he not ask specifically for excavation?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: We asked that the agreement be amended. Part of our amendment was for complete excavation of the site and that the contaminated material be removed. There was a very lengthy discussion with respect to the technology that is available today to treat that contaminated material.

The question of cost is still a difficult one to answer for our people or for those in the United States. However, we have held firm to the position that the material has to be excavated, that it has to be removed and treated, and that if the technology is not available today, it should be

retained only for a short period of time and then removed and treated at the earliest possible opportunity.

Our bottom line on this has consistently been the removal of the contaminated soil and the treatment of that material.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. Elston: Why were the minister's expert witnesses allowed to go into that court with the idea that the judge was able to amend the agreement on his own? As I understand it and as has been reported, the only thing the judge can do is either reject the agreement or approve it.

It has not been clear from the way the minister has spoken in the House, how those people were put as expert witnesses. I would ask him to defend why the point of the Ontario case was not well recorded in front of that trial judge.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Very simply, the procedure is that we request an amendment to certain articles in the agreement and the judge, by way of the process that apparently goes on in district court in New York, then rejects that particular paragraph or that particular article of the agreement. That is the process used. By suggesting an amendment to certain clauses in the agreement, in fact, we are asking for rejection.

Mr. Rae: I would again say to the minister, that in itself is not at all clear.

I would like to ask the minister why nowhere in this brief does it refer specifically to the court disapproving the agreement. That is found nowhere in the final concluding argument. The only place the word "disapproval" occurs that I have been able to find on reading this material is where the counsel to the ministry says: "The fact that Ontario is not a party to the enforcement of the agreement in and of itself is not grounds for disapproving the agreement."

Why should the failure of the agreement to provide for Ontario, which is going to be more affected by the pollution of the Niagara River than any other jurisdiction in North America, to be included as part of the enforcement provisions of the agreement, not in and of itself be grounds for disapproving the agreement?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It is very difficult to be operating in a foreign country and to ask for all the demands and the caveats that are being put forward by the members from across the floor. We believe we have put forward the strongest case in an intervention of this kind that has ever been put forward by any jurisdiction, any province, or for that matter by the federal government, in the United States of America.

I want to say that some of the groups that are being somewhat critical of our performance are the self-same groups that have lost other cases in the United States, specifically in New York state, as the leader of the third party well knows. I am talking about the Hyde Park site. The reality of the situation is we are asking for as much as we can get to protect the interest of Ontario and the quality of drinking water in this province, and downstream from this province into the St. Lawrence as well.

It has consistently been our position that we want to protect those interests. I believe we are doing a more than adequate job in the courts in New York state. I stand by that statement, and I think we will simply have to await the outcome of the case to determine whether or not we have put forward an effective case.

[Later]

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I rise with respect to part of a question raised by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), in which he stated that the firm of Terris and Sunderland had not represented the Sierra Club in the United States.

Mr. Boudria: That is not what he said.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: That is exactly what he said. Check Hansard.

Mr. Boudria: He said that was not the lawyer—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I want to respond now to the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition. The reality is that the firm of Terris and Sunderland represented the Sierra Club five or six years ago in at least half a dozen cases, one of which was a landmark case involving the firm of Terris and Sunderland v. Ruckelshaus and the Environmental Protection Agency.

I just want to clear the record in that respect to let the Leader of the Opposition know that once again he is wrong. I am sorry to have to say that, but he is wrong.

Mr. Nixon: He said they did not know the lawyer.

Mr. Bradley: They did not know the lawyer, he said.

Mr. Boudria: Obviously the minister is wrong.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Labour. Rather than forcing the

injured workers of this province to come before us every year—twice a year as they have been doing—and demonstrate for fair benefits, at the very least why does the minister not, when he introduces his additional moneys, change the law and provide that there be a basic cost-of-living adjustment every year in the level of benefits and the level of pensions so we do not force the workers of this province to come banging on the door of the Legislature in order to get justice? Why not build that into the very system the government is going to be creating this year?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree at all with the statement that the injured workers have had to come and bang on the doors of this Legislature for increases each year. Those benefit increases, in the length of time that I have been in the ministry, and certainly in the period of my predecessors, the member for York East (Mr. Elgie) and the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson), have come forward on a regular basis.

Mr. Rae: I would say to the minister he has a selective memory in terms of the history of the last 10 years. There have been years when there has not been an increase and other years when people had to wait and it was made retroactive.

I would specifically like to ask the minister why the government has been unable to convince its caucus to bring in legislation this week, when all of us were ready for the legislation and when all the evidence we had was that it was going to be coming before this Legislature on Tuesday. What happened on Tuesday that forced the minister to change his mind?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am sure if I asked the member opposite what went on in his caucus on Tuesday, he would tell me to get lost. I am not going to tell him to get lost.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Tell him to get lost. Tell him to go and play the piano somewhere.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, what is the minister's objection to automatic indexing? This is the point, surely. Why would he not relieve people of this yearly spectacle and the insecurity on the part of the workers by putting this into the legislation and making it automatic? Then he would not have any more headaches in that regard.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I think the opposition is playing 20 questions to try to find out what is in the amendments that will be coming forward in a few days. The member will

have to wait until I bring forward the amendments.

Mr. Rae: Let me remind the minister, because I was involved as a law student 11 years ago with workers who were banging on the door here and many of them got charged by the police, there was a three-year delay when the present Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) was responsible for this ministry. Therefore, this government does not respond with respect to the cost of living.

The Acting Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: What is holding up the Tory party? What is the problem with the Tory caucus that it cannot get a handle on the need for basic justice for injured workers in this province? What is the reason for the delay when there are workers who have been waiting for years for basic cost-of-living increases and for real justice in terms of long-term pensions? Just what is the minister's problem?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: There is no problem with the government caucus other than a very legitimate need for as much information as it can get about the amendments. I do not find that unreasonable at all. We are making arrangements in this coming week to bring them up to date with the amendments. Unfortunately, they were the last to be told about the amendments because we were the last to be told—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, we were the last to be told.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: —as far as our consultative process was concerned. We had to take this legislation through—

Mr. Rae: Have the workers been told?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Will the member give me an opportunity? He gets awfully mouthy some days.

Mr. Rae: I plead guilty to that one.

The Acting Speaker: Will the minister answer the question?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: This is one of the most major pieces of legislation to come before this Legislature in quite some time. This meant we had all sorts of procedures to follow. We had to go through the policies and priorities board. Then we had to go through the three policy fields. Then we had to go back to the policies and priorities board. Then we had to go to cabinet on more than one occasion because it is a very complex piece of legislation.

Then we had to present this to our caucus. Unfortunately, because it is a long and detailed

piece of legislation—I think it is something like 60-odd pages—the caucus wanted to know all the facts. It will take some time to dispense those facts to it.

10:40 a.m.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education on something she may be familiar with. It is a question on the co-operative program at the secondary school level. I think the minister would agree the program is a proven winner both in terms of teaching skills and getting jobs for young people.

The government's own document, Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions, states the following: "Students should not be denied access to a co-operative education course that involves expenses because of their inability to pay." It goes on to say, "Every effort should be made to provide assistance to students whose financial circumstances make it difficult for them to participate in a co-operative education course."

In view of those statements, what increased financial incentive and grant to boards of education and possible financial assistance to selected employers is the minister contemplating to assist with student transportation costs, particularly in rural areas, to provide greater access to work-place locations and for co-ordinators and monitors of the program?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the member may not be aware that there has been a significant number of rural boards involved heavily in co-operative education for some time. We have been developing the information which they have established, related to their experience in this area, to see whether there really are significant additional costs in the whole area of the provision of co-operative education.

I am not convinced, at this point, that it is absolutely essential that there be important additions provided to employers in order to induce them to participate in co-operative educational programs. It seems to me that it is of great advantage to employers throughout this province and Canada to become so involved and to consider the investment they make in this area of education as simply that, an investment rather than a cost.

We are looking at all of these figures and determining within the next round of general legislative grant appropriations the appropriate ways in which to deal with the matter.

Mr. Bradley: I hear no definite commitment that the minister is going to provide increased funding for a very worthwhile program. She has not said it is not going to be forthcoming, but she certainly has not given that commitment. The minister will understand that teachers in co-operative education have repeatedly heard there is a crying need for workers in skilled trades. All they want is the ministry to tell them where the shortages are and they will send out the students.

As the minister well knows, more than 60 community industrial training committees are conducting training need surveys in the communities and her ministry is heavily involved in these surveys. Why is it not a matter of policy that this survey information is routinely made known to heads of co-operative education programs? Can the minister not even undertake to implement an obvious, no-cost policy that will help the most serious problem facing this province today?

The minister must not say she is already doing it because a phone call to her ministry today indicated she was not already doing it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is absolutely correct, but I must remind the member for St. Catharines that on every single CITC there is a strong representative from the secondary school community. It seems to be perfectly obvious that the responsibility of that individual on that CITC should be to communicate the information developed by the local CITC to the co-operative educational director.

Mr. Bradley: The minister is passing the buck.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not passing any buck. Surely everybody has to discharge his own responsibilities. If it will be of any help—

Mr. Bradley: And the minister should discharge them.

Interjections.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Why don't you be quiet? You are mouthy as well, almost as bad as they are.

Mr. Foulds: Look who is talking.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not quite, but almost.

If it will be of assistance, when we amass all of this information, and it is in process now, to distribute it widely throughout the province, we shall most certainly do it.

We do, however, provide that information to the Ontario Manpower Commission. The Ontario Manpower Commission and our repre-

sentatives therein remain part and parcel of the Canadian occupational projection system which is attempting to provide factual information and accurate projections, not only on a nationwide basis but also on a provincial and a regional basis, to all of those who are going to be involved in training and education.

I do wish the member would bone up a little on what is going on.

Mr. Bradley: I am very familiar with it. I speak to people in the front line.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Oshawa has the floor.

Mr. Breaugh: Somebody is being very mouthy over there, and I would appreciate it if she would be quiet.

AMATEUR BOXING

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation concerning the failure to implement the recommendations of the report entitled For Amateur Boxing, which was tabled last year. The minister is aware that one of the prime series of recommendations in that report centred on the gathering of accurate medical information about amateur boxers.

The minister said in a press release that the main thing to do now is to move as quickly as possible on these recommendations. Why is it, then, that six months later he has offered only \$1,000 to Boxing Ontario? He knows it will cost about \$8,500 and some computer hours to get these medical records computerized and into the passports. However, the best he has to offer to Boxing Ontario is \$1,000 to do a job he knows will take \$8,500.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I am not at all sure \$8,500 is required.

Mr. Breaugh: This is the ministry's number.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: That may be so, but at the present time my staff is negotiating with Boxing Ontario to see just what it will cost to get the data we want and they want. I am sure in the next week or 10 days we will reach a figure and a plan and we will get the data we need.

Mr. Breaugh: Since this information comes from the minister's staff and these are estimates prepared by them—and supposedly they know what they are doing—I am led to concur with certain people in Boxing Ontario. They say it appears the minister was only interested in a short-term solution to satisfy the members of the House and the press.

I would like the minister's response. I find it very difficult to believe he is interested in implementing that report as quickly as possible when six months later virtually nothing has happened. The minister's staff prepared estimates on exactly what each of the recommendations would cost, and his response to that in financial terms has failed miserably. What else are people at Boxing Ontario supposed to believe other than that the minister was very interested in this report when it was news last December, but in June when the work has to be done and paid for he shows very little interest?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: If the member takes a broader look at the relationship of my ministry to Boxing Ontario and amateur boxing in this province, he will have to conclude we have done a great deal to strengthen Boxing Ontario. We will continue to do a great deal. We will continue to do what is needed to see Boxing Ontario has the equipment, the ability and the resources properly to manage amateur boxing in this province.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister is aware that the sport has caused more brain damage to boxers than any other sport practised today. Is the minister considering a suggestion that is being made in the United States to ban all hitting above the shoulders in amateur boxing?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer specifically on that. However, I know that through our sports medicine people we are looking at all possible ways and means to prevent major injuries to the boxers, as we are to prevent major injuries in other sports. Certainly, if disallowing punches to the head is one, if that is something Boxing Ontario and others that are close to the game, the sports governing bodies, would take action on, we would support them.

DAY CARE

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It concerns some of the recommendations contained in the Women in Rural Life report commissioned by his ministry.

The minister is aware that the need for subsidized day care in Ontario has reached a critical stage. As my leader pointed out to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), the waiting list in Metropolitan Toronto is 1,300; in Ottawa-Carleton, 608; in Sault Ste. Marie, 80, and the list goes on.

The Women in Rural Life report points out: "The fact that a large number of women are in the

work force has affected family life and made child care a critical issue in rural areas, where problems are often compounded by isolation and a lack of public transportation."

10:50 a.m.

Bearing in mind the statistics I mentioned for rural and urban areas of the province, will the minister assure us that rural Ontario will be getting its fair share of the nearly 1,500 spaces allocated by the Treasurer, or will the needs of rural Ontario be ignored once again, as in the recent announcement regarding the 700 spaces that have already been allocated?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, to be completely accurate, the member should point out as well that the report indicates that the kinds of child care requirements in rural Ontario are in many ways different from those in urban Ontario.

In addition to the need for full-time child care for some families in rural Ontario, there is also a need for seasonal child care, particularly at periods of the year such as recently, the planting season, and later on during the harvest.

The member can be sure that we are making representations to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. They are well aware of the report and have received it very well. With respect to the provision of full-time child care, I am confident they will do everything in their power to work with the municipalities, which would be the sponsors, in the main, of that kind of a service.

Beyond that, our own ministry, as far as the many courses we offer are concerned, is going to move towards a provision of child care services. We have such things as the College Royal at Kemptville and the business for management seminars. We are working with the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario on a pilot project for the provision of child care in western Ontario in the coming months.

Again, I think there are ways to provide child care in rural Ontario that are perhaps unique compared to urban Ontario. There are networks of organizations there that can assist that do not exist in urban Ontario.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago the Treasurer was being interviewed on Global Television in response to a question on day care needs in rural Ontario. He assured the interviewer without hesitation that rural Ontario would get its fair share of the 1,500 day care spaces.

The minister is aware that the lack of adequate day care—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Supplementary question?

Mr. Eakins: Yes, indeed, this is the question. The minister is aware that the lack of day care in rural Ontario has had serious repercussions. There have been 25 young people killed on farms who would come under this program.

Bearing in mind that his ministry's report on rural life recommends that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food act as a catalyst with other ministries and that the ministry "should consider additional services to rural women," what specific steps will the minister take to ensure that rural Ontario gets its allocation of day care spaces?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) made a statement earlier this week, which I believe deals with the subject very well. The member should pull that out and refer to it. As far as specific allocations are concerned, the member's question should go to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

The member asked what we are doing. I told him what we are doing with respect to our own programs in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, where we are providing courses and seminars and things such as College Royal. We will make child care services available. We are working with organizations in rural Ontario such as the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, which comprise the largest rural organization in the province with 28,000 members, to see what they can do to help in this area.

The Minister of Community and Social Services addressed the question of full day care, full child care, a few days ago. Obviously, the representations are being made and very effectively.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, how serious does the minister think the problem is in terms of the need for rural day care? Does he agree with the people who wrote that report and the other farm groups that were talking about it, or does he agree with the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven), who says there is no need for day care in his area at all? He has never had one call about it, he said on the radio the other day, and it is not a problem at all.

If the minister agrees with the former group and not with the member for Oxford, would he please include him in his training courses about the need for day care in the rural communities of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the need will vary from area to area, but speaking of all of

rural Ontario, I believe there is a need for child care services. The demographics of rural Ontario have changed dramatically in the last 30 years. The incidence of farm wives working full-time or part-time is much greater today than it was 30 years ago. There is an even higher incidence than in urban Ontario, but it will vary from community to community. It is not surprising that in one area the need has perhaps not been as great as it has generally.

RENT REVIEW APPEAL DECISIONS

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations arising out of the decision released this week by the Residential Tenancy Commission, where it reversed the decision of David Braund on 40 Earl Street. I am sure the minister is aware that the Residential Tenancy Commission does not have to force landlords to disclose who the beneficial owners are in a financial transaction in order to pass on the costs through rent increases.

Now that the Residential Tenancy Commission has shot itself in the foot and crippled itself in its capacity to determine whether financial transactions are genuinely at arm's length or whether they are like the Cadillac Fairview transaction, what remedy does the minister intend to take?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, from the information available to me, that is not the interpretation the commission places on that decision. They do not see this as a precedent that will apply to subsequent rent review hearings. If my information is accurate—and I am sure the member has the same information—the decision rests upon whether Mr. Braund, as the commissioner at the hearing, had evidence before him which justified the appeal court's decision.

As I understand it, the rent review appeal decision simply said there was information before Mr. Braund that should have satisfied him there had been an arm's-length transaction. That does not preclude a commissioner or the commission itself from insisting on information about beneficial ownership. If that is not the case and if the member is accurate, I would have to share his concern and review it, but that is not the information provided to me.

Mr. McClellan: Surely it could not be that there is some hesitation in being critical because the new candidate for Scarborough Centre was one of the panelists on the Residential Tenancy Commission who made the decision. That surely could not be the problem.

Has the minister learned nothing from the Cadillac Fairview transaction, with the modus operandi of the scam being the establishment of 50 numbered companies with no way of determining whether they were arm's-length transactions or not, and the intention being to pass the whole of the \$200 million from the second to third flip on to the backs of the tenants?

Does the minister remember his words on December 20, 1982, in the justice committee concerning the 40 Earl Street case when the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) asked him, "If you lose the appeal, will you introduce legislation"? The minister said, "If I lose the appeal, I will certainly look at remedies." He lost the appeal. What remedies is he looking at?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: With the greatest respect, I submit I have answered that question in that I have advised the member that, from the information given to me, the decision is not a precedent to apply to all future cases. It was a decision that said there was sufficient information available for that commissioner to make a determination that there had been an arm's-length transaction. If that is not accurate, then the statement I made before the committee would still stand, but from the information currently available to me that was the main interpretation of the decision of the rent review appeal board.

11 a.m.

FUNDING FOR ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMS

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. Further to my questions of March 29 and April 2, it appears the minister has relented just a little on the grants to the Prescott and Russell County Board of Education. At that time, she cut the grants by some \$680,000 and devastated a really good alternative education program that we had. Now she has restored \$127,000.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Question?

Mr. Boudria: The minister has forced the board to knuckle under her weird definition of alternative education, whereby she has stated they can only get funding for alternative education if they teach it in the daytime.

The Acting Speaker: Question?

Mr. Boudria: Can the minister explain to us why they have to teach adult education in the daytime to get grants from the government?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the program that was requested to be funded by the

Prescott-Russell board was primarily a daytime program; it involved people who were telephoning the teachers in the school during the day.

The definitions of alternative education have been looked at very clearly and carefully by the officials of the Ministry of Education and others. It has been determined that the funds for alternative education will be delivered if the criteria stated within that definition are met.

Mr. Boudria: That is not correct at all. The minister has it all wrong. She is again insulting the teachers, as she did the last time I asked the question, by saying this is nothing more than phone calls being made as a method of teaching. The truth is that the minister does not have any money to support innovative and experimental growth in education.

Will the minister admit that through her policy of limiting the amount of money in education, no matter how good, innovative and successful the Prescott-Russell program is, the only support they will get from the government is at the expense of another board of education? Is it not true that in the minister's relentless drive to cut support for education in Ontario, she has had to cut this kind of education funding?

Where does this fit in with the educational and economic transformation the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) is talking about in his budget? We had a program that worked and the minister has refused to recognize it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I believe the answer to the first question posed by the member for Prescott-Russell—in fact, the diatribe by the honourable member—is an absolute no. That is not truthful, it is not a fact and it is not what our intention is.

Second, as a result of modifications made to the funding mechanism within the past two years—not just within the past year—there has been increased support for adult basic education, because we saw that as our responsibility. Indeed, there has been a huge increase in the participation rate of adults in basic education and credit programs at the secondary school level as a result of this.

The Acting Speaker: I ask the minister to back off on her earlier statement, because it did cross over the line.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I shall, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the word "diatribe."

The Acting Speaker: No. The "truthful" part.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sorry. I thought you were referring to the word "diatribe."

The Acting Speaker: No. I felt you went over the line on "truthful," and I ask you to withdraw that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was not factual.

The Acting Speaker: That is fine. Thank you.

HEARING PANEL

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Is it not true that the minister budgeted \$128,500 for the years 1983-84 to cover the cost of the hearing panel on industrial waste management and \$205,500 for 1984-85 for the same panel? Is it also not true that the panel has never held one hearing? What is the minister conserving other than jobs for his Tory friends?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, there appeared to be some kind of leading statement by the honourable member with respect to who is on that particular hearing panel. There is a great deal of work under way by that hearing panel at the moment, even though the hearings have not started. They are preparing themselves for one of the most extensive hearings in the history of this province.

As the member well knows, the industrial waste site that is being proposed is a most controversial matter. It is in the news virtually daily at present, and this hearing panel is acquiring the expertise to be able to review the case in detail. They are quite active, even though they are not holding hearings at this time.

Mr. Philip: It is costing an extra \$70,000 this year for a panel that held no hearings last year and did nothing all year in terms of any kind of public hearings. What are we going to get for the just under \$500,000 being spent in those two years for a panel that has not even held hearings?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I will be most happy to answer the question in detail during the course of my estimates. The reality is that what we are going to get out of that hearing panel is complete, total and unequivocal protection for the people of Ontario. The site that will finally be chosen by the Ontario Waste Management Corp. will be the best possible site that can possibly be picked anywhere in this province. That is what the hearing panel is going to determine.

MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a brief point of order. As always, I have been observing the sights and sounds of question period. I simply draw to your attention, sir, that notwithstanding the temptation and the tendency of members on

this side perhaps to go on at some length with questions, I noted in particular your quick intervention with respect to the questions of my colleagues the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) and the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins). I found that you were less than evenhanded in that you allowed the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) the opportunity to carry on, I thought rather extravagantly, with his answer to a question previously put.

I accept Mr. Speaker's intervention, as I must, but I found, for whatever reason and under whatever instruction, that the intervention particularly with respect to the questions put by the member for Victoria-Haliburton and the member for Prescott-Russell was speedy if not premature. Given what happened later with the Minister of the Environment, I found it overall a little less than evenhanded; so such is my complaint.

The Acting Speaker Mr. Cousens: Thank you.

PETITIONS

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition addressed as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, urge the Legislative Assembly and the government to support the private member's bill of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wine in independent grocery stores.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

Mr. Speaker will be glad to know that this petition is signed by a further 130 people. I know all members would like to know that this brings the total now to 6,655 people who have signed this petition.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition addressed as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"1. No discrimination against existing injured workers;

"2. Pension for life, for disability for life—a two-part pension compensating the injured worker, on a permanent basis, for life, for both the pain and suffering and the wage loss resulting from the disability;

"3. Automatic indexing for cost of living increases;

"4. No deduction of Canada pension plan benefits."

This petition is signed by several thousand injured workers from all over Ontario who want justice for injured workers. Those of us in this party endorse this petition.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and introduce this petition, which is signed by thousands of injured workers across Ontario. It is addressed as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"1. No discrimination against existing injured workers;

"2. Pension for life, for disability for life—a two-part pension compensating the injured worker, on a permanent basis, for life, for both the pain and suffering and the wage loss resulting from the disability;

"3. Automatic indexing for cost of living increases;

"4. No deduction of Canada pension plan benefits."

This petition has been gathered by the Association of Injured Workers' Groups, the Union of Injured Workers, the Industrial Accident Victims Group of Ontario, Injured Workers' Consultants, the Association of Pensioners and Injured Workers of Ontario, the Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples, the Central Toronto Community Legal Clinic and the Mississauga Community Legal Clinic.

On behalf of the New Democratic Party, I wish to endorse the contents of this petition for the injured workers across Ontario. I hope the government will do something about the injustices which injured workers are facing on a daily basis in the province.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Kolyn: On behalf of the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton), I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As residents, electors of Middlesex riding, many of us send our children to the John Calvin Christian School, one of the many independent schools, because we believe parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to our children—in this case, Christ-centred education.

"Most John Calvin Christian School supporters are people of modest means. We ask for your help in reducing the unfair tax burden of what, in effect, is double taxation.

"John Calvin Christian School operates in the public interest for Christian parents. We ask for protection for the right of our school to its existence and the remission of taxes taken away by Ontario but not used for the education of our children."

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES AND RESPONSE TO PETITION

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answers to questions 301, 302, 310, 327, 335, 338, 339 to 370, 371 to 398, and the response to a petition presented to the Legislature, sessional paper 86, standing on Orders and Notices [see appendix, page 2069].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Eaton: The eighth order.

Assistant Clerk: The 18th order, resuming the adjourned debate—

Hon. Mr. Eaton: No. The eighth order.

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved second reading of Bill 41, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, is the minister going to say anything about it? Our critic is just out the back and will be here in a moment.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, if the Liberals are not ready to put up a speaker, I would be happy to speak to the motion until they are prepared.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): That is not a point.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, back in December 1983, the House passed Bill 139, which established a procedure whereby

holders of operating licences could apply to the Ontario Highway Transport Board for a rewritten certificate according to new specifications. The bill empowered the board to issue rewritten certificates or to consolidate several certificates into one after a hearing.

Provision was made for the applicant to have the right to a hearing before the board. The bill also required the board to provide notice of its intention to issue a rewritten certificate following such a hearing and to provide an opportunity for objections to be heard.

The current bill removes the requirement to publish notice of intention to issue a rewritten certificate and to hear third-party objections. The applicant's right to a hearing is retained, of course.

On further analysis of the situation, the implementation steering committee has been convinced that the provision of a second-stage hearing process before the board would not serve a useful purpose. It is convinced that it could jeopardize the licence rewrite process and, through delays, significantly postpone the time when much-needed regulatory reform can become effective.

The changes embodied in the present bill will streamline the licence rewrite process without compromising the rights of the participants. Several safeguards respecting potential omissions or inconsistencies will be available.

Entry under the successor to the current Public Commercial Vehicles Act is intended to be available to all carriers six months after the rewrite licences are issued. Any carrier would be able to correct any difficulties created by the licence rewrite process relatively quickly by exercising his right to apply for different authority under the new system. In addition, the board's powers of review can be used to correct any substantial inconsistencies. Finally, all parties can seek redress in the courts in circumstances where they feel the board exceeded its jurisdiction.

The present bill reflects the unanimous recommendations of the trucking regulatory reform implementation steering committee, which is made up of representatives of the trucking industry, shippers, manufacturers and many others.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to a point of order, and I am glad my colleague has been able to join us. I thought I should say something on a point of order since the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) interjec-

ted that he was ready and we were not, or something to that effect.

The order that was called, to begin with, was the eighth order. In fact, on the business for the day that is laid out here it is the 18th order. The clerk was a little confused. The House leaders will recall there was some discussion earlier in the week that because of the absence of some ministers and some critics on all sides, it was a bit uncertain. In fact, we were quite prepared to go ahead with the order of business for Friday, which is the 18th order, An Act respecting the Marketing of Grain Corn.

If there is any confusion about this it is too darned bad. We are prepared to do any of these bills that come up. My colleague is here and we will now participate.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, certainly it was my understanding we would proceed with two other items of legislation.

For my part, I am anxious to support this legislation and to do anything I can to simplify the regulatory process we seem to be encumbered with as it relates to the administration of commercial movements on our highways.

I think it would be appropriate to pay tribute very briefly to the people who have been involved in the regulatory reform dealing with changes to the Act, and particularly the assistant deputy minister, Mr. Larratt-Smith. I understand that as of this morning he will be leaving the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and, I believe, will be joining the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Hon. Mr. Snow: That is terrible.

11:20 a.m.

Mr. Cunningham: I have always enjoyed working with Mr. Larratt-Smith, because I thought he was a very competent civil servant and one who bent over backwards to be of assistance. For that reason I regret he will be leaving the ministry. I am sure he may find the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to be a challenge. I see the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Fish) is in her seat. I am sure she will benefit from Mr. Larratt-Smith's assistance.

Very briefly, we definitely will support Bill 41. I hope we can expedite the rewrite process with regard to our licences. I fear that if something is not done in the very near future to streamline the process, we will find that regulatory reform, both at the federal level and at the American level, will overtake us. We would then be in a very unfortunate position.

The minister is only too well aware that there is incredible pressure on us from Washington right

now to be more liberal—if I can use that word—in the granting of licences here in Ontario. I hope that in the context of the process of regulatory reform, where people are fiscally stable and otherwise qualified and where the market will permit, licences can be obtained. Within this process, I hope those licences will be written in a manner so that not only the licensee will understand them but, more important, the shipping public also will have an understanding of who is entitled to carry goods on our highways, who is regulated and what that licence means in understandable language.

With those very brief comments, we would support the legislation.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I share the comments of my colleague the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham). I was transportation critic a number of years ago, and what is interesting is the difference in atmosphere between the ministry and the industry now as compared to back then.

At that time, there was the fear that this ministry, for whatever reason, was going the American route of deregulation rather than regulatory reform. To the ministry's credit, and indeed to the credit of some of the senior staff in this ministry and at the Ontario Highway Transport Board, for whom I have a lot of respect, we have instead gone a different route, namely, we are trying to simplify the regulations and make them more workable and more practical while at the same time not going the insane route the American system has gone.

I was in Washington not so long ago, talking to some of the trucking interests there as well as some congressmen and senior public servants in addition to our very interesting Canadian embassy people, and there is no doubt there is a major problem in the United States with deregulation. We have seen the disappearance of large numbers of reasonably paid union jobs. We have seen the increasing bankruptcy of reputable trucking companies. We have seen a reduction in services to small towns. We have also seen desperation on the part of some trucking companies in trying to pick up business or save their industry in any way possible.

With that, of course, there is also a feeling—and this is what I was concerned about—on the part of some American legislators and some senior American civil servants that because the United States has gone the deregulatory route we should open up the doors and follow their route.

I am pleased to see that the transport board, despite the notable increase in some very large

applications from the United States, has taken what I think is a reasonable stand on some of these hearings in not allowing the floodgates to open and let some of these large carriers in from the United States. The application by Yellow Freight for a public commercial vehicle licence is a case in point. It is now before the cabinet, the Ontario Highway Transport Board having ruled against the application. One hopes this minister and his cabinet will not cave in to the kind of pressure that may be coming from south of the border to let in their carriers, some of whom I admit have serious problems as a result of deregulation.

The changes that are proposed today were arrived at by consensus and with considerable effort and work on the part of people in the industry, as the minister has mentioned. This is the route to go, and we must stay with this kind of regulatory system. It has worked well for us, and no one outside our jurisdiction should be telling us how to run our transportation industry. We have one of the best transportation industries anywhere in North America with respect to the movement of goods. It has the best of both the private and public systems built into it. There is a need for some reforms, and this is one of the reforms the trucking companies and the shippers have been asking for.

I congratulate the minister and all of those who worked so hard to bring this bill about.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I thank the representatives of the two opposition parties for their comments. I appreciate them very much, especially with regard to my assistant deputy minister, Mark Larratt-Smith, who has done a tremendous job over the past number of years in dealing with this very important issue. He has worked very closely as the chairman of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act review committee with the industry committees. He has established the Licence Rewrite Commission and the implementation advisory group for implementing the report titled Responsible Trucking.

Mark has done a tremendous job. I join with the members in saying how sorry I am that he is leaving us. However, these changes do take place. We have other very competent people, his backup people, within the ministry who will be able to carry on and proceed. I do not think we will lose any initiatives in getting ahead with the implementation, although I would certainly have liked to have seen Mark able to continue to head up this branch of the ministry until the major changes take place, because he has been a very major part of them. We all wish him very well as

he goes on to his new responsibilities in another ministry of the government.

With regard to the comments of the member for Etobicoke, I will not respond to them because it is a matter which is the subject of an appeal to cabinet and will be dealt with in due course.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

GRAIN CORN MARKETING ACT (concluded)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 68, An Act respecting the Marketing of Grain Corn.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to resume the debate. I think when we left off I was detailing what happens when a farmer delivers a load of corn, particularly shelled corn, to a grain elevator in the fall. The elevator operator or one of his employees looks at the quality of the corn. It is in the hopper wagon, truck or whatever. He decides in his own mind whether it is premium corn, an average corn or a poor corn.

Through the machinery he has, he directs the corn to various storage areas. If it is premium corn, he will direct it to the premium bin. Yet at that time of year, in the press of harvest, a premium price is not paid for that corn.

I should stop here to point out that at times of the year, particularly in the late winter or early spring, when they are bringing in shelled corn from the producers' own bins—because many producers have driers on their farms—or bringing in air-dried cob corn, they will pay a premium at that time of the year.

11:30 a.m.

Nevertheless, the point is they get the premium corn in the fall at the standard price. Then they have the option of selling that through the winter or the spring at a premium price. What this does to the industry is discourage people, because it does not give a premium or an incentive to harvest the corn at just the proper moment. It does not give them an incentive to adjust their combine to the nth degree so they would have the least amount of shell in the corn or the least amount of fines, which are elements in the corn that detract from the quality.

I suppose the mill operator is saying to himself, "What is the difference? I am paying an average price and by not raising a big fuss with these people who bring in poor quality corn I am not fighting and quarrelling with my customers."

There is another reason he would not want to quarrel with his producers. It is because in most

cases the mill operator sells the fertilizer, pesticides and all the elements that go into the production of that corn. If he should happen to lose a producer who is delivering poor quality corn, it also means he is going to lose that person as a customer for his fertilizer, pesticides and other items.

The highest quality corn goes to the people who make corn flakes. They want a solid, large kernel of corn they can slice into four slices. The starch people and the wet and dry milling people who make these into food products for human consumption want very high quality corn and will pay a premium for it.

Last fall, the Elgin farmers' co-operative—there are six branches in Elgin county—instituted a program of paying a 25 cents a bushel premium for corn that was delivered in the fall and that met their high standards. One result of that was immediate: those who were indifferent machine operators, who did not have their combines adjusted properly or who harvested at the same time, came back with a good second load of corn after having missed the premium.

In some cases where the farmer was not a specialist on combines, where he did not really understand his own combine and how to adjust it properly, they had the dealers' mechanics come out to the field and adjust these combines. It was said there was a rush on all the machine dealers in the area to send their mechanics out to the field to make these adjustments.

Everybody wins in that situation. The farmer gets an extra 25 cents for his premium corn and the dealer has a better quality corn to offer to the trade. This is important when we are competing with the United States. Because of their geographic situation and the fact the US has a higher number of corn units, anything we can do to improve the quality of corn delivered to our producers is a step in the right direction.

This is one of the areas where the people we are going to appoint under this present act will be able to work. They will be able to fight, negotiate and encourage producers to produce high quality corn. I think the minister is well aware of that. I do not know whether he was in the group that went to Spain and Portugal a couple of years ago—and again recently I believe—where we have made some inroads into that market, and it is quality corn they are looking for.

I do not have any severe disagreements with the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) on any of the amendments he has offered. The act as presented pretty well covers the situation. I do not think the following is a bad provision:

“That the following new section 5 be included in the Act:

“5. At any time following three years after the proclamation of this act, the board of directors of the association may conduct a plebiscite among all holders of a licence on any question deemed advisable and, if 15 per cent of all holders of a licence petition for a plebiscite on any question, the plebiscite shall be conducted.”

That is not a bad provision, but I think it is really covered by the wording of the act, because if a large percentage of producers request a refund it should be obvious that support is lacking and that either the minister or the board should call for a plebiscite.

We have heard that old saying about people voting with their feet, and I think the vote here was for a request for a return of their money. I am not against the principle the member has put forward.

A second reservation I have is that if we mandated a date of three, five or six years for an automatic vote, I would not be opposed to that. I am not against revotes. I have participated in a number of votes, and usually the association, the marketing board, or whatever it is, comes back in stronger than ever.

If it is mandated so it comes at a certain time, it could come in five years when the prices of corn might be exceptionally high. On a short-term basis, the producers would say at that particular moment: “Well, who needs this? Corn is \$5 a bushel.” Of course, with inflation it might be \$6.

However, although they might be saying that, there could be a low price two years down the road and they would be scrambling to get the association back in operation.

If there is a crisis of confidence amongst the management, or a crisis of confidence about whether or not this association is really needed, I think it is going to become perfectly obvious to the board of directors—through letters to the editor, letters that they receive, phone calls they receive, messages that are going to come to the minister himself, messages that come to the members of this Legislature, and through the people who request their money back.

I commend the member for having raised these thoughts, but I do not think it is really necessary.

His other amendment was that the words “up to and not exceeding 40” in the second line of clause (a) of subsection 6(1) be struck out, and that the word “in” be substituted therefor. As I interpret it, this should give a free choice to the board to set the fee at any rate.

I believe that we, as legislators, should have some idea of the upper limit of the fee when we are voting on the bill. I believe we should reassure the producers they are liable for up to a certain ceiling amount.

As I understand it, the board of directors of the association proposed the levy at the present time to be only half that amount, 20 cents per metric ton. A provision is made in the 40-cent limit for inflation to erode the ability of the 20 cents per metric ton to cover the costs of the association. If and when the ceiling is reached, the minister should bring the question back to the Legislature.

On section 5, it should be reworded to read, "where approval has been given at an annual or other membership meeting of the association, or where the board of directors determine that an emergency exists..." and so on.

This adds more specifics than the original. For instance, it would, in my mind, call for a motion at an annual meeting. I would leave the present wording which gives the directors the responsibility of assessing the members' feelings.

If there are a number of letters, phone calls, and questions at meetings, the directors could move without having a motion at hand. I would say they would be wise to have such a motion. Certainly, if I were a member of a board and contemplated some major change in the operations of the board, I would insist we call a special meeting and have a motion, unless it was a real emergency situation.

I think that judgement should be left to the directors as to whether or not they want to do that. Mind you, if they are in error, the democratic process has a way of dealing with them over the long term.

11:40 a.m.

I want to close by saying that my friend the member for Welland-Thorold suggested the Liberals have not been carrying out their proper activities leading up to this act. He suggested the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) had not attended a certain meeting. I have outlined the meetings I have attended back to 1970. I have been meeting with these people throughout the winter. There have been telephone calls and meetings with John Cunningham and Ed Kalita.

A group of them met with us about a month ago in the Legislature. Unofficially, we met the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil) in the hallway and we put it to him to try to speed up this act so it could be put in force before the coming fall season. Whether he had a hand in this I do not know. I assume he did because he told us he

would do all he could to speed up the act. I want to take the opportunity to thank him.

As far as our party is concerned, I want it clearly on the record that we have been in there since day one and we will continue to do whatever we can to help these people.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would like to participate in the debate on Bill 68, An Act respecting the Marketing of Grain Corn. Grain corn plays a major role in the economy of Ontario, as does agriculture as a whole. It is the engine that makes our economy tick, and when it is in trouble it affects many areas of our society and the overall economy of the province.

It is good to note that corn has come a long way in the past 20 years. I can recall in my short lifetime when corn was nothing but a crop to feed cattle and fill the silos. In the past 20 years there has been much improvement, and it has certainly created a lot of financial assistance for the farmers of Ontario. There is still room for growth in this area.

Getting to the bill that has been brought in to organize the marketing of corn, I would like to pay tribute to Max Ricker in our area who played a leading role in organizing the farmers so they would have orderly markets, get a fair return for their product and not be at the whim of the market at harvest time in the fall. The fact they had to sell at a very depressed price has created much hardship for many farmers. That has put many of them out of business during the high interest period of the last couple of years.

Max went around the province at his own expense. As the member for Haldimand-Norfolk, I gave him as much support as I could in getting financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. I am glad to see the ministry has been able to assist in the past year with financing and getting the organization off the ground. We appreciate that.

As my colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) and our Agriculture and Food critic, the member for Huron-Middlesex, have both indicated, we are supporting the legislation. We hope the organizations themselves can adjust and support the regulations needed as the marketing association grows to meet the needs of the corn producers and farmers of Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) is happy to hear these contributions from people who are actually in the corn growing business. He will be interested to know that corn at Chatham today is selling at about \$4.40 a bushel.

Mr. Ruston: Start emptying that crib.

Mr. Nixon: That is last year's corn; we harvested it last fall. If one wants to sell in advance for next year, it is something like \$3.20; it is very low indeed. If this minister could use his good influence and resurrect the spirit of John Diefenbaker and also the former Minister of Agriculture, Alvin Hamilton, and have the success they had in selling western wheat back in the 1960s, he might really go down in history as an important Minister of Agriculture and Food after all.

If he could say to the farmers, "Go out and grow corn and I will get you \$4 a bushel for it," he would be a hero and Massey-Ferguson would have something more than a \$2-million paper profit. That would be another reason to raise the president's salary to \$750,000 instead of \$500,000. When I hear them talking about cutting their expenses to the bone, I just about fall through the television set. However, I am straying just a bit.

The price of corn is very good right now; of course, there is not any to sell. That is largely why that is so. The price of soybeans is also good. It sagged a little, but our farmers in the Brant area are certainly feeling good about those prices. The farmers look at the prospects for next fall and, always optimists, say, "We will get more than \$3.20." Unfortunately, I am afraid we will not get more than that.

In spite of the cold and wet weather, I am going to make a prediction now that we will have a good year. I certainly hope, trust and pray we will. We have about 75 hectares planted and up on our farm in Brant county. If I were not so involved in a lot of ancillary, weird political activities this weekend I would be getting the spray on it. Then one just sits back and watches it grow; because when the heat comes, it really grows.

We have a variety of seeds, mostly Pioneer variety. I was just pointing out to the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson) how concerned we are sometimes about the cost of seed corn. The quality of Pioneer and other varieties I should list is excellent, there is no doubt about that. My neighbour sells Pioneer, so I will let it go at that.

The Pioneer company has a small farm with a group of plots for testing seeds in my constituency. They always have a very good field day year by year and try to sell us their stuff. But when they are asked the question, "Why do you not actually produce the seed in this area where we buy so much?" they come up with some footling nonsense about how they have to produce the

seed in Essex and Kent counties where the heat units are so high. That is very hard to live with since it costs \$84 or something for a bag of seed. They do not call it a bushel any more; they call it a unit and they tell you exactly how many kernels there are in it—very scientific.

I suppose the crop will extend more and more across Ontario—it really is right across now—with crops that will mature with 2800 or 2900 heat units; 2900 units are what we have in the county of Brant. Certainly, a lot of corn is grown.

Some of our farmers who are very sensitive to markets and make good judgements are growing more and more soybeans. We have done that on our farm for the last five years with good results, sometimes very good results. We have never had to cash in on crop insurance, thank God. However, the price has been extremely variable.

Personally, I favour this bill very much. My friends who have already spoken on the bill have indicated how corn has become the backbone of our farm economy, to produce a cash crop, feed and seed. The market for sweet corn has become very large. Although one can buy imported cobs of sweet corn, two to a little plastic wrapper, in our supermarkets almost all year round, it is only the more advanced supermarkets that put in good fresh corn, mountains of it, for housewives and consumers to buy when it is fresh from our own market, at a good price of \$1 a dozen or something like that. It is certainly worth \$2 a dozen. When there is a lot of corn and it is chilled and properly prepared for the market, it is one of the biggest treats that can come from our own farms.

In the tobacco area, where farmers are desperately looking for alternative crops, a good deal of sweet corn is now being grown.

11:50 a.m.

The corn will be delivered to the Ontario Food Terminal in Etobicoke, which is an area we have a good deal of pride in, but one I hope the minister's officials are keeping a careful eye on. As the competition in vegetable crops becomes more intense, it is going to be tougher and tougher to keep evenhanded justice at that food terminal.

I think it is working very well, but some of my farmers who are getting more into this business—being forced into it, and they do not mind because they are good farmers and grow good quality stuff—are experiencing more stress in getting proper access to fair and just sales at the food terminal. I just want to mention that to the minister because it is going to be even worse this summer as the tobacco acreages are cut back.

This sort of program, however, for a checkoff to improve corn quality, corn sales and corn markets, is certainly something we need. Nobody is talking about much more elaborate marketing at the present time, although that may come. What will bring it is if we have the kind of crop yields this year that may be expected. We assume the weather is going to straighten up, and it looks as if it is a little better today.

There is some corn that has not been planted in our area yet, and even down in the more intensive corn areas where there had been more rain and cold weather than usual; however, the crop is going to come along very well indeed and we are going to have a lot of corn. When that price sags down to around \$3 and \$2.90 next fall, there is going to be the kind of pressure for more government involvement in marketing than we have had in the past.

The farmers themselves have been really instrumental in bringing this forward. The government has co-operated, certainly, and we are very glad to have this bill. However, many farmers from my own community and from the communities of my colleagues who have already spoken have taken a lead in this. I know we are delighted to support the government bill, which at least begins this sort of support for the corn farmers.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Robinson): Does any other honourable member wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I have another item that comes to mind.

The Acting Speaker: No, I am sorry. We are not in committee of the whole; we are in the House on second reading.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words in support of this bill and outline some of the things that have gone on in the corn industry.

Kent county and southwestern Ontario have been the cradle of corn development in Ontario from the time hybrid corn came into Ontario. It is the base for many seed corn companies—Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd. among them, for the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), but many others. It is a very considerable industry in our area.

Mr. Stokes: Can the member tell us how the wind affects the sex life of the corn?

Mr. Watson: I am not going to try to explain the sex life of seed corn in the Legislature, but I did have the pleasure of explaining that to the member and he really believed me.

On a lighter note, about two years ago I had the pleasure of a visit from our present Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). I took him out to the seed corn field and showed him how some of the rows were tasselled and some of the rows were not and why they were not. He looked at me and said, "Andy, you are putting me on."

Mr. Gillies: Or words to that effect.

Mr. Watson: Or words to that effect.

Getting back, I do realize now that we have personally been part of the growth of the corn industry in Ontario. I can well remember the time I was transferred to Northumberland county in 1962. I remember that the statistics indicated there were 620 acres of grain corn in Northumberland that year.

When I left about six years later, I believe there were 6,200 acres in that area.

Mr. Nixon: What year?

Mr. Watson: In 1968. In that period of time, that was the tremendous growth in the corn industry.

One of the interesting theories that we, in extension, used to have as to why corn did so well was that farmers would follow the recipe for growing corn. They would buy hybrid seed and would use fertilizer on it. They would use the proper spray. They had not grown the crop, so they went to see the people in western Ontario about how to grow corn. They adopted the machinery. They would follow what we call the recipe and they would do it right.

The opposite of that was when it came to something like pasture. Their fathers had grown pasture, their grandfathers had grown pasture and they knew how to grow pasture. One really could not tell them, in some ways, how to do that.

Through the years in Kent county we have had a lot of attempts to form organizations in that part of Ontario. This has been a grass-roots organization. I would like to pay tribute this morning to John Cunningham, the present treasurer of the organization, who has given many hours, driven many miles and attended many meetings to get this bill where it is, and to get the organization where it will represent the interests of the producers. morning to John Cunningham, the present treasurer of the organization, who has given many hours, driven many miles and attended many meetings to get this bill where it is, and to get the organization where it will represent the interests of the producers.

It has the potential to be the largest producer group in Ontario representing a commodity. I am

pleased this morning to add my support and I am pleased it has reached this stage.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, this is quickly turning into a debate on motherhood from the sound of it. I am pleased to know the legislation as proposed—

Mr. Nixon: Where does the minister stand on motherhood?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am entirely in favour of it and I have so demonstrated; unlike some, such as the deputy leader of his party.

Before I respond briefly to some of the comments made by the members opposite, I would like to praise those who have worked so hard and diligently over the course of the last 18 months or so to form the Ontario Corn Producers' Association. I remember well when they first came to see me in the fall of 1982, people such as John Cunningham from Kent county and Max Ricker from Haldimand-Norfolk. Later they were joined by Terry Daynard who, initially, for all intents and purposes was a volunteer manager for the association.

When they first came to me they were looking for grants from the government and we quietly directed some support to them with respect to printing and distributing brochures, postage, etc. At the time, I would not agree to give them a grant to cover salaries, travel costs and so forth. I felt they had to prove themselves and show there was the support in the countryside for this organization, support they felt was there or could be there.

They have more than proved themselves. It is really part and parcel of why we are here today, why I proposed this legislation and why I recommended to cabinet a grant of \$60,000 to the association to tide it over until the 1984 crop comes off. The revenue from the checkoff will then begin to sustain the organization on an ongoing basis. I am full of admiration for what they have done and I am pleased to support them.

One comment made by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk bears answering, and that is the question of the sales of grain corn. Several members have referred to the tremendous growth over the course of the last 20 years or so in the production of grain corn and its tremendous expansion into eastern Ontario with the development of new varieties that are suitable to the land there, with the soil type and the lower heat units.

Another organization that relates to the grain corn industry that does an extremely good job is the Ontario Grain Corn Council, headed by Mr. Ken Patterson and made up of producers, elevator operators, mill operators, etc. They

have really done a great job for the grain corn industry through their work in the overseas markets.

I will give a couple of examples. The two sales that have been made in the 18 months to Spain are due entirely to the intelligence work carried on by Mr. Patterson and the late Ed O'Meara, who was the secretary-manager of the grain corn council until shortly before his untimely death.

They got wind of the need for grain corn in Spain and that Spain was looking for new suppliers. They went to Spain and introduced themselves and our industry. Spain did not even know Ontario existed as far as grain corn was concerned. They sure know now because they have made two large purchases from us. We think we are well established there now, based on the quality of our product and the professional way in which we have dealt with them.

12 noon

I went to Britain with Mr. Patterson and a group of about 10 people from the grain corn industry for a few days in late February. We held seminars in London and in Glasgow which were very well attended by buyers from the United Kingdom, France, Greece, South Africa and various other countries. There again we exposed them to the quality, availability and reliability of Ontario grain corn.

Most of them did not know this is something in which we are highly specialized. Quite frankly, we are better at it than our American competitors. The corn we are shipping is basically last year's corn. The tremendous carryovers year after year in the United States, notwithstanding their payment in kind program and others, continue to be a problem. Those importers are getting two-and three-year-old corn from there.

We have great hopes for breakthroughs in the United Kingdom market, particularly with the distilling industry in Scotland. I made the comment, not quite facetiously, when I spoke to the seminar in London, that we are buying something in the order of \$57 million worth of Scotch whisky in this province every year. I added that we would kind of like to see some of our corn coming back in that way.

Mr. Nixon: Do they make that out of corn?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Yes.

Members opposite made four or five points, and I will quickly respond to them. Some concern was expressed by a couple of members that there might not have been consultation with the association. I want to assure them that the

association was involved in all the work leading up to the drafting of the legislation.

I will acknowledge that we did not indicate, and perhaps should have done so, the exact date on which the legislation would be introduced. That, I think, is a minor oversight. Certainly they were involved in the development of the legislation. They have been well aware of it since its introduction, and they are quite supportive of speedy passage of the legislation at this time.

The member for Welland-Thorold referred to an organization known as the Ontario Corn Growers' Association. In fact, he kept using that term when he meant the Ontario Corn Producers' Association. That organization was designated in the Agricultural Associations Act many years ago when the act was last dealt with by the assembly. Since that time, so far as we can determine, the Ontario Corn Growers' Association has become totally defunct. At some point in the future, when we propose amendments to that act, we will delete that name. For all intents and purposes it is a defunct association.

The legislation allows us to designate other organizations by regulation. It is through that route that the Ontario Corn Producers' Association was designated some time ago by order in council.

Mr. Swart: In that act?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Yes.

The honourable member raised concerns about whether there should be a vote. As does the member for Kent-Elgin, I have to place a lot of trust and faith in the good sense of the members of this association. This is a compulsory but refundable checkoff we are talking about.

Also like my friend opposite, I am sure we will be able to spot any major problem about refunds. As we monitor the activities of the association and the collection of the checkoff, if we find an inordinate level of requests for refunds it will be clear to the association and to us that it is a problem that will have to be addressed. I do not think it would be appropriate to do as the member suggests. If we were talking about a compulsory nonrefundable fee, then in my view that would be quite a different matter.

The member has also expressed some concern about section 5 of the bill. We will get into that when we get into committee, but it allows the board of directors to make recommendations to the government. Here again the association has its constitution, and if the member does not have a copy I will be glad to send one over to him. They are bound by that constitution.

There are really two points of defence. One is the constitution of the association; the board of directors will obviously abide by it and will answer to the membership of the association for their actions and for whatever recommendations they make. The second line of defence is the ministry itself, in that none of these things will become regulations unless and until I or my successors sign on the bottom line and pass the recommendation to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for execution as regulations.

Finally, in respect of the concern about the 40-cent limit for the fees, again I simply say that we do not envisage opening and reopening this act every year. We would have to do so if we were to simply put in the legislation the figure we are asking this year. I do not think it is unreasonable to allow for that flexibility. I hope inflation will stay at such levels that it will be a long time before we will have to amend that 40-cent figure to 45 cents, 50 cents or some higher level.

Again the protection is there through the organization operating under this constitution and the ministry itself.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

LIVE STOCK AND LIVE STOCK PRODUCTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved second reading of Bill 69, An Act to amend the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit for second reading the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Amendment Act, which relates to the administration of Ontario's beef cattle financial protection program.

The legislation will permit the director of the livestock inspection branch to impose terms and conditions on the licence of a dealer in livestock and livestock products, and this will better protect producers who sell to these dealers. I commend this legislation to my colleagues, to improve the efficiency of the livestock statutes and our protection plan for producers.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill. I believe it brings in a number of points that need clarification and gives more powers to the commissioner to protect farmers.

The one thing I want to comment on is that it gives powers to impose terms and conditions. I think this is a good move, because one can envisage situations where one would want to restrict some activities of a dealer who perhaps

got in a tight financial situation or who had not exercised the best judgement necessary and yet had not placed himself in a position where his licence should be taken away.

I guess one could call it sort of a probation period that the firm might be placed on; once its problem is cleared up, a full licence could be granted. I suppose the minister could put such conditions as requiring them to put the money they receive from the packer into a trust fund for the producers, or he might want to put a limit on the amount of money they could have out in products the producers were not paid for. There are certainly a number of ways to take care of the concern.

12:10 p.m.

I have one concern that comes out of the Stewart McIntyre livestock dealer case last year. He is now working for someone else as a livestock buyer. Wherever I meet farmers, the subject of bankruptcy comes up. It bothers them that this person could now be in a position of trust and handling livestock. As the minister well knows, I mentioned this before when we discussed the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act in the House about a year ago in June.

In the United States, under the Packers and Stockyards Act, they have a provision that people who have committed a crime—and here I want to make the distinction of “crime” as meaning something other than someone who simply went bankrupt in an orderly fashion and did not hide or abscond with or use the money of other people to which he was not entitled, those people are not penalized; however, a person who has committed a fraud, or I suppose we could say made a holdup or any number of criminal acts, of which fraud is the one I would be most concerned with—cannot work in a position of responsibility in that industry for a time as short as 10 days and up to 10 years.

Ten days would be given for some very minor infraction. I suppose it would point out to the person and to the public that this type of business is not condoned. A year would probably be given for someone whose crime was less severe, or reasonably severe but still bordering on the minor, whereas someone who conducted a serious fraud would be out for 10 years. In effect, this means life, because anyone who was taken out for 10 years would have a very difficult time getting back into the business.

I will move that clause 3(1)(a) of the act be repealed and the following substituted therefor: “The past conduct of the applicant or his

employees or, where the applicant is a corporation, of its officers or directors or employees, affords reasonable grounds for belief that the operations that would be authorized by the licence will not be carried on in accordance with law.”

I point out that the only change here is that we have added “employees.”

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Robinson): Order. You are telling us that now for information, and you will be making that amendment in committee of the whole?

Mr. McGuigan: As you have pointed out to me, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of information. Perhaps the minister will want to think about it.

While we are talking about livestock and livestock products, I would like to ask the minister how many dealers are licensed at present. The information I have is that there are 449 licensed dealers at this time. From information we were given some time ago, I believe this is out of a total of something like 1,200 to 1,300 or 1,400 operating in the province; no one knows the exact number of people who are operating as dealers.

I think we can say that probably only about 40 per cent of the people who operate in the field—I am sure these are the ones who cover a greater percentage of the business—are licensed. Therefore, only about 40 per cent protection is provided to the producer. If the producer sells to one of these people who is not licensed, as I understand it, he would not be covered by the fund.

We would like to know what sort of efforts the minister has made in seeking out these people and trying to impress upon them that they must be licensed.

We would also like to know some of the details about the formula the government uses to determine the financial responsibility as a basis for issuing a licence. I do not believe we want to say every producer or every handler of farm products has to have a bond to cover all his purchases. Even in the United States, where they do have such a system, the bond seldom covers the total amount of money that is lost in a bankruptcy.

What is really asked for when asking for a bond is that the corn or grain or livestock be financed twice. It is financed first by the producer who grew the corn or fed the livestock and took it to market. In the interim marketing period, we are asking that it also be financed by money set aside in a bond. Ultimately, the cost of that financing goes back to the producer. In the

end, the producer is financing it twice. Under an insurance scheme such as we have he is always financing at one point, whatever the time. A small amount of money in an insurance form covers a very large amount of product.

For our own information, we would like to know some of the criteria the ministry uses in licensing. We would like to know how many dealers have been refused licences since the program has been established.

In meetings I have attended it has been pointed out to me that under our present protection act it is 48 hours before the money is paid. Following that 48 hours, one has to notify the authorities in Toronto about nonpayment to achieve one's protection.

Most people tell me they are very seldom, if ever, paid within 48 hours. One person I spoke to said that with every load of cattle he sells he phones at the end of the 48 hours. It has gotten to the point that whoever answers the phone on the other end says, "It's you again." I told him to keep on phoning after the 48 hours or he would not be covered.

The minister should take a look at that protection plan and see whether 48 hours is an appropriate time. The people at the meeting I attended at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture said that in some cases it is two weeks. Probably two weeks is an inordinately long time, but nevertheless I would suggest that 48 hours is too short.

Returning to the US legislation, it is 24 hours after the animal has been killed. The idea there is that once someone has taken the hide off, the branding marks have been lost and the animal cannot be identified, so 24 hours after it has been killed, the money has to be forthcoming. They do have some provisions to do with long-distance shipping. They feed many cattle in California and truck them to Chicago. They take into account shipping time. That is once again a factor that has to be taken into account, although it may be lumped in with the killing time.

Using the opportunity to speak under this act, I would like to point out to the minister that that program is not affording the protection that all of us intended. I do not think anybody wanted to put up what we have in the past called show-window legislation, but perhaps inadvertently that has been done.

That is all I have to say at this moment. We in this party will be supporting the act.

12:20 p.m.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I will speak very briefly on this, first of all because I hope we can

find the time yet today to get into committee of the whole to deal with amendments and get the Grain Corn Marketing Act passed. There is real urgency for it. I know regulations have to be developed. We may have them partly developed, but it could still take some time. It is almost a year since the Grain Elevator Storage Act was passed and it was supposed to be urgent, but as far as we know the regulations have not yet been gazetted. I hope that pattern will not be followed.

I will speak only briefly to this because I support it. It improves the present situation and in these times we need not only a more alert watchdog but also one with teeth. This adds some teeth to the present act. There is the option for more control in the licences which are issued.

The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) raises a very important point when he states that less than half the livestock dealers are licensed at the present time. However, it is my understanding that in general they are very small dealers handling very few cattle, eggs or wool. I guess those are the only things covered under this act at the present time.

However, with the economy the way it is, it becomes more likely that more and more farmers will not be paid. Therefore anybody dealing in livestock, eggs or wool should be licensed. The act should be policed to ensure that those farmers are not going to lose substantial amounts of money because a dealer goes into default.

I think the amendment proposed by the member for Kent-Elgin is reasonable and we will be supporting that. We have no amendments of our own to submit to this bill, but we will be supporting it. Perhaps it will not go quite far enough in ensuring that all dealers are licensed, and with the restraint program and the cutbacks the policing of the act will probably not be stepped up, although I think that needs to be done.

In any event, it is better to have improved legislation in place so the policing and the protection of the farmers can be enhanced if it is the will of the government to do so.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I will review a few of the points quickly. First, with respect to the question of the 48-hour provisions in the financial protection plan, we recognized when we set up the plan three years ago that the practices do vary considerably. There are instances where people are paid the same day, either by cheque at the sales barn or through electronic banking. There also have been instances where payment has taken much longer than that.

It was felt that 48 hours was a reasonable period and that a number of dealers would have to change their practices. This could be done by adopting an electronic banking system or by changing their arrangements with their bankers so they could start to pay the same day or within that time.

Also, it is our feeling that if we made it any longer than that it would increase the exposure of the fund. It would require higher premiums, because we have tried to operate it on an actuarially sound business basis. We felt that was an appropriate and reasonable period and we still do.

Of course, I am pleased to hear what the member told his constituent. The individual producer is—and I keep repeating this over and over—the first line of defence in this financial protection system in establishing the credentials of the individuals with whom they are dealing as to whether they are licensed. If they are not, they should not be dealing with them and should act accordingly. When they do not receive payment within 48 hours, they should notify us so they vest their protection against the fund in the event there is a default. The advice the member gave that individual was entirely appropriate, and I was pleased to hear that.

The member for Kent-Elgin has referred to some 1,200 to 1,300 dealers in Ontario. Nobody really knows how many there are. We estimated at the outset there would be in the order of 1,000. It was nothing more than a guesstimate. To date this year we have licensed 455. We have applications pending from another 52. We have already held 58 hearings on licence applications. There are three more coming up. To date we have refused 27 licences. The staff involved with the operation of the fund has been very busy.

When we hear of people complaining—and of course we hear complaints from producers—we pursue them. We have pursued a number of prosecutions in court, and with few exceptions we have been successful in going after those people. The members will notice that in this act I am proposing significantly stiffer penalties. I am doing that as a signal to the industry that I will not tolerate dealing without a licence. When we find instances of that, we will pursue them with vigour. With the approval of this legislation, we intend to go for much stiffer penalties than the current legislation provides.

Regarding the definition of financial responsibility, every application is a unique application. They are all different. We have to look at the individual's assets, the extent to which he is

involved in the industry and his current financial situation to arrive at a determination as to whether he can, without posting some kind of bond, letter of guarantee from his bank or whatever, be expected to carry on business in a way that will not hurt the interests of the producers.

As one would expect, we have a unit of financial people in the ministry that does this work. It is subject to review. Where we talk about imposing terms and conditions in the amendments the individual has the right of appeal, which we would never want to deny to him.

With respect to the member's amendment, I will address it when we get into committee of the whole House in a few minutes, but I think I have covered the member's concerns in sections 3 and 4. I will get into that in more detail in committee of the whole House.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

GRAIN CORN MARKETING ACT

Consideration of Bill 68, An Act respecting the Marketing of Grain Corn.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Chairman, I believe the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) has some amendments to offer.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Robinson): The first amendment I have in hand is an amendment to clause 3(1)(a). Is there any amendment prior to that point?

Sections 1 and 2, inclusive, agreed to.

12:30 p.m.

On section 3:

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I believe we are dealing with Bill 68, An Act respecting the Marketing of Grain Corn. The amendment to which you have alluded is one offered by the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) on Bill 69. My notes would indicate that the first section to which an amendment is being offered by a member opposite is section 5.

The Acting Chairman: Thank you. I did in fact have in my hand the amendment to the wrong bill.

Sections 3 and 4, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 5:

The Acting Chairman: Mr. Swart moves that section 5 be reworded to read:

"Where approval has been given at an annual or other membership meeting of the association, or where the board of directors determines that an emergency exists, the board may recommend through the minister to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the making, amending or revoking of regulations respecting any of the matters set forth in section 6."

Mr. Swart: In my preliminary remarks, I would like to say I am pleased the minister is here while we are dealing with this. He was also here last week. I had been informed his parliamentary assistant was going to be dealing with this but I am pleased to see he has seen the importance of being here.

I regret the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) is not here today while we are dealing with this very important legislation. I assume he must have a very important engagement elsewhere or he would be in his seat.

Mr. Nixon: In case anybody reading the record is under the impression that our critic is anything less than fully informed and very interested in this, I want to take full responsibility for agreeing on behalf of the Liberal Party to go forward. Since there were so many people absent on the government side and the New Democratic Party side—there are only two white-lipped and trembling socialists in the whole Legislature today—in order for the House to do any business at all, we had to co-operate.

The Acting Chairman: Order. Perhaps we could address ourselves to the amendment.

Mr. Swart: Perhaps we can address this amendment even without the member for Huron-Middlesex being here. I know he is normally absent on Friday. As I say, I am sure he has sound reasons.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: For the honourable member to indicate that the Liberal critic is normally absent on Friday is what we call a terminological inexactitude. If the member wants that translated into unparliamentary language, I would be prepared to do it under the circumstances.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, you may have overheard the comment of the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) in which he said I was stretching the truth. You might want to take the appropriate action to have him withdraw that.

The Acting Chairman: To be perfectly frank, I did not hear his remarks, which are not on the record. As I would ask any member of this assembly, if there was some infringement of the

standing orders relative to that, I would draw it to his attention and leave it with the member. If the member has anything he would like to draw to the attention of the chair as a point of order, I would be glad to consider it. Otherwise, I was listening to the Liberal House leader making his point of order, and I did not hear anything else.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I understand you probably did not hear the comment made by the member for Essex North. Of course, he realizes he made it. I presume he would have wanted to withdraw it, as would any honourable member in this House. I understand you cannot force him to withdraw it when you did not hear it and it is not in the parliamentary record.

The Acting Chairman: Speak to the amendment.

Mr. Swart: I was going to say this is a package of three amendments which I am introducing. I want to say immediately that they are friendly amendments in that they do not really change the substance. In fact, they implement what I really believe is the intention of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association.

I recognize there was a motion passed by the Ontario Corn Producers' Association in which they support the bill in its present form. I also recognize that after having worked with the minister for a long period of time in bringing in this bill—and even though the executive may not have seen it before it was tabled—it did, by and large, implement their wishes.

They worked with the minister, whom they found to be reasonably co-operative in this instance. I would say they do not now want to suggest there should be some changes made, even though they are minor changes with regard to the bill and even though they side with a member of the opposition instead of with the minister. Therefore, they are basically happy with the bill and want to get it passed.

There are three reasons I am moving these amendments and this first amendment in particular. I think it would be valid to say this legislation provides for a substantial variation from normal procedures in forming any association, any marketing board or any organization in this province.

The normal procedure for forming an association is for people to voluntarily sign applications for membership. In regard to trade unions, one has to get 25 per cent of them to sign and then one can have a vote. Somewhere along the way, however, there is a vote taken, and the majority of those who are going to be affected have to vote in favour of that.

That is not being done here. I understand the reasons for it and I can say those reasons make it necessary to proceed with this bill without going through the normal procedures for forming any organization. I think we would all agree that it is normal and preferable to voluntarily take out membership and to have a vote. That is not possible here. Everybody in this Legislature is going to go along with this bill, but it is still a rather unusual situation.

I am also introducing these amendments because I want the Ontario Corn Producers' Association to have a maximum degree of success in their organization. When opposition arises, it would be my hope that they will not be able to point to a bill, or any actions of the association or its constitution, or anything else which they have any valid reason to criticize. I want to say immediately that there is no intent on the part of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association to enact any constitution which is anything other than fully democratic.

12:40 p.m.

That brings me to the third reason I am introducing this series of amendments. Although the association will operate democratically, we in this House are responsible for the legislation which we pass. In that sense, it has to be independent to a degree and to stand on its own. Associations change and their personnel change. What we have to do here is stand back, look at this and pass legislation we think is the most desirable legislation possible under the circumstances. It is for those three reasons I will be moving the three amendments and have moved this particular amendment.

This resolution really establishes a principle. It is a principle that the membership shall make the decisions on major matters. It is a principle which is supported by the corn growers' association. However, it is a principle which is absent from the bill. Section 5 now reads:

"Where the board of directors of the association is of the opinion that a majority of the members of the association are in favour thereof, the board of directors may recommend through the minister to the Lieutenant Governor in Council the making, amending or revoking of regulations respecting any of the matters set forth in section 6." The main controversial matter there will be setting the amount of cents per tonne to be deducted.

My amendment provides: "Where approval had been given at an annual or other membership meeting of the association or where the board of directors determines that an emergency

exists, the board may recommend through the minister...."

I recognize these are only recommendations, but nevertheless there is a principle here that it will be the membership generally that will make the recommendation and not just the board of directors. The association recognizes this itself. I had a letter delivered to me by special delivery yesterday from the secretary of that association. I have the highest regard for Mr. Terry Daynard. He has done a magnificent job for that association and for the corn growers. I want to put that on record. But I also want to quote from the letter he sent me, and I suggest this is significant.

"While the board recognizes that section 5 in the bill gives the board of directors substantial powers, it also knows that its members would not give it the same." He is saying in this letter addressed to me relative to this act that he does not think the corn growers would give to the board of directors the power this legislation gives to the board.

We have to stand on our own on this. The board of directors and the corn growers are not going to make any fuss about this. Sitting here in this Legislature, we should surely have some concern when we are prepared to give power to the board of directors which the association itself, in its secretary's view, is not prepared to give to that board.

I recognize there is the opting-out provision or the refund provision, and what the minister and the other speakers say about that is absolutely correct. Having said that, we are putting them in there through this legislation, and there should be this additional degree of accountability in the legislation.

The resolution that has been passed by the association itself states that the membership at the annual meeting will determine the checkoff. It says: "Therefore, be it resolved that OCPA continue to request that a compulsory refundable checkoff be instituted beginning with the 1984 crop on all primary sales of commercial grain corn, that the amount of the checkoff be initially 20 cents per tonne and that this amount be subject to change upon approval by annual meetings of OCPA."

They intend to do it through their annual meeting. They do not have any intention of doing anything else, but I do not think we should be passing legislation that gives the approval to do something other than that, except in the case of emergency. That is the reason I moved this motion.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Chairman, I have already given my thoughts on this bill in my earlier statement. To go over it again, I think almost any group of people could have made a statement such as was made in that letter.

With the membership of any association, each person in the association has various thoughts as to the powers he would want to delegate to a board of directors. I think the consensus amongst the people would be that the responsibility should be assumed by the board of directors.

One can make a pretty good argument that when they are given broad powers, one imposes on them the moral obligation to carry them out in a very responsible way. The decision as to how they are carried out is theirs. If one gives them a lot of ifs, ands and wherefores, one gets the barrack-room-lawyer type of mentality developing that says, "Because we are answering this we are okay, or because we are answering that we are okay." In the broad context of the thing, it can be wrong.

Having served on marketing boards and in various associations, I have faith in farmers. I have also been at the receiving end of what farmers have to say when they are displeased. Back in the late 1960s, I was a member of the Ontario Fresh Fruit Growers' Marketing Board. At that time, peaches were covered by the act. We had gone to the producers and asked for plums, pears and cherries. Subsequently, those products have been covered. We had a vote and the vote failed to pass.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Biggs, came to us shortly after and said, "All you fellows have to resign." We said: "What are you talking about? We just had a vote that said we are not adding these other products to the list of regulated products. He said: "That is only a half-truth. You do not really know whether those people voted against adding those products or whether they voted against the competence of the board." After thinking about it overnight, the next morning we said, "That is right," so we resigned.

Out of nine people on the board, only three got back. I happened to be one of the ones who got back. I am not bragging about that particularly because it was not a contentious issue in the area I represented. It showed there are many reasons why these things happen. You have to be responsible. You have to take the bull by the horns and act. I have great faith that the farmers will do that.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Chairman, I concur with the last member who spoke. To pass this

amendment would unduly tie the hands of the board of the Ontario Corn Producers' Association.

In the debate on second reading, I mentioned the safeguards in the bill, the constitution of the association and the process that requires my signature or that of successor Ministers of Agriculture and Food and the ultimate approval by cabinet. I think there are many safeguards built into it and it does not require the kind of shackling this amendment proposes.

12:50 p.m.

The Acting Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Swart's amendment to section 5 will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

The Acting Chairman: Mr. Swart moves that the following new section 5 be included in the act:

"5. At any time following three years after the proclamation of this act, the board of directors of the association may conduct a plebiscite among all holders of a licence on any question deemed advisable and if 15 per cent of all holders of a licence petition for a plebiscite on any question, the plebiscite shall be conducted.

"And that the present section 5 be renumbered section 6 and all subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly."

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, the intent of this is obvious. The minister and the agricultural critic for the Liberal Party will know I had originally posed a somewhat different resolution which would have required a vote. I had suggested I would be introducing a resolution which would have required a vote after a period of three or five years among the corn producers who held licences.

After further discussion and consideration, I decided this perhaps was a more practical way of giving some additional accountability to the membership. After the corn producers' association had got its feet on the ground and had an opportunity to operate for a time, and if there was wide dissatisfaction, it would be able to have a vote on any question.

The resolution also provides that the board of directors may conduct a plebiscite. I recognize it would have the power to do this on its own if it were in the constitution, but this gives an opportunity for a degree of accountability I think should be in this legislation which we as a Legislature are passing.

Once again, I have no doubt that the board of directors is a responsible group. It is a democratic group and has proved up to this time that it is a very outstanding organization. We are the ones, however, who have to pass the legislation. To pass legislation which makes no provision at any time in any way for the board of directors or the organization to be accountable to its membership on whether the organization shall continue or on any other questions seems to me to leave something out of the organization which is desirable in a democracy. Because it is our job here to ensure that legislation that is passed is the optimum in a democracy, I am moving this.

I still want to get this through, so I will not say anything more on it.

Mr. McGuigan: In the interests of time, I have already expressed my thoughts. I would like to see this passed as quickly as possible.

The Acting Chairman: All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 5 agreed to.

On section 6:

The Acting Chairman: I have a final amendment from the member for Welland-Thorold dealing with clause 6(1)(a).

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, if the other two amendments had passed, I believe that would have given the necessary theoretical accountability so that this motion would have been desirable with the limits eliminated. The present legislation provides for the 40 cents per metric ton limit, even though the association proposes to charge only 20 cents per metric ton. Since the other two sections did not carry, I do not propose to move this amendment.

Section 6 agreed to.

Sections 7 to 9, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

Mr. Nixon: What about the last one?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Do you want to try to do the other one?

Mr. Nixon: We still have four minutes.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: If the members opposite feel we can do it in that time, I will be happy to.

LIVE STOCK AND LIVE STOCK PRODUCTS AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 69, An Act to amend the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Robinson): I have an amendment to section 3 from the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan).

Mr. Swart: We can proceed with that if you want. However, I have two amendments to the Milk Amendment Act and we will not get through by one o'clock. I would prefer to rise and report and get to third reading on this bill.

The Acting Chairman: Bill 69 is An Act to amend the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act. Does that eliminate those comments?

Mr. Swart: I am sorry.

Sections 1 and 2 agreed to.

On section 3:

The Acting Chairman: Mr. McGuigan moves that clause 3(1)(a) of the act be repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"The past conduct of the applicant or his employees, or, where the applicant is a corporation, of its officers or directors or employees, affords reasonable grounds for belief that the operations that would be authorized by the licence will not be carried on in accordance with law."

Mr. McGuigan: As I pointed out before, the only change here is that we have added "employees," and I have already explained the reasons.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: That is really section 1 of the bill we have before us. I am not sure whether we already passed sections 1 and 2 by voice vote. If we amend clause 3(1)(a) of the act, it is covered in section 1 of the bill. If we accept the motion to move the amendment, we open up section 1 of Bill 69 so that we can deal with this.

The Acting Chairman: I have to draw the attention of the member for Kent-Elgin to the bill. I apologize for not being quicker to spot this. However, the only portion of Bill 69 dealing with section 3 is clause 3(1)(b). Clause 3(1)(a) is not before the committee and the House as part of Bill 69. Therefore, I will have to rule his proposed amendment out of order. The committee has approved sections 1 and 2 of the bill.

Section 3 agreed to.

Sections 4 to 8, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Timbrell, the committee of the whole House reported two bills without amendment.

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 69, An Act to amend the Live Stock and
Live Stock Products Act;

Bill 68, An Act respecting the Marketing of
Grain Corn.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

HOSPITAL BEDS

301. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health advise the House of the number and percentage of preferred accommodation hospital beds in Ontario as of (a) March 31, 1983, and (b) March 31, 1984? [Tabled April 16, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Data on the number and percentage of preferred accommodation hospital beds are collected annually as of March 31. The figures as of March 31, 1983, are as follows: 23,498 beds staffed and in operation; 49 per cent.

Data on the number and percentage of preferred accommodation hospital beds as of March 31, 1984, are not yet available.

302. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table the current number of hospital beds, broken down into: (1) active treatment beds, (2) chronic care beds, (3) extended care nursing home beds, (4) extended care homes for the aged beds and (5) beds currently out of service and not used for any other purpose? [Tabled April 16, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The number of beds as of March 31, 1984, is as follows:

Hospital beds (approved): acute treatment

(including psychiatric), 36,790; chronic (including rehabilitation), 13,000.

Extended care (licensed beds staffed and in operation): nursing homes, 29,215; homes for the aged, 12,944.

We do not maintain information on the number of beds currently out of service and not used for any other purpose.

NURSING HOME BEDS

310. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health table a list of the locations, number and date of occupancy in the 1,000 approved nursing home beds referred to the ministry in Hansard at page 4079, December 1, 1981? [Tabled April 16, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of the 1,000 approved beds referred to in Hansard in December 1981, as of March 31, 1984, there were 794 licensed and in operation, and 206 have been awarded and will be in operation as soon as renovations and/or construction are completed.

The locations, number and licensing date of the homes licensed and in operation are as follows:

Nursing Home	County	Beds
Bethammi N.H.	Thunder Bay	5
Strathroy N.H.	Middlesex	7
Parkdale N.H.	Toronto	3
Craiglee N.H.	Scarborough	39
Kennedy Lodge N.H.	Scarborough	44
Manitoulin N.H.	Manitoulin	1
Garden Court N.H.	Toronto	2
St. Jacques N.H.	Russell	10
Riverside N.H.	Essex	10
Tri-Town N.H.	Timiskaming	80
The Grove, Arnprior & District N.H.	Renfrew	11
Parkview Nursing Centre	Hamilton-Wentworth	20
Marianhill N.H.	Pembroke	3
Frost Manor N.H.	Victoria	30
Springdale N.H.	Peterborough	15
Extendicare N.H.	Peterborough	15
Timmings N.H.	Cochrane	28
Town of Caledon	Peel	27
Caressant Care N.H.	Oxford	10
Maitland Manor N.H.	Huron	3
Maitland Manor N.H.	Huron	7
St. Andrews Centennial Manor N.H.	Simcoe	3
Daheim N.H.	Durham	3

Nursing Home	County	Beds
Canadianna N.H.	Kent	10
Maple Villa N.H.	Halton	3
Fairvern N.H.	Muskoka	50
Sara Vista N.H.	Simcoe	4
St. Olga's N.H.	Hamilton-Wentworth	19
Chateau Park N.H.	Essex	49
Beacon Hill Lodge	Essex	20
Daheim N.H.	Durham	12
Century Manor N.H.	Northumberland	10
Bestview Health Care Cen.	Etobicoke	94
Maple Manor N.H.	Oxford	9
Maple Manor N.H.	Oxford	1
Daheim N.H.	Durham	5
Sunnycrest N.H.	Durham	40
Clarion N.H.	Hamilton-Wentworth	61
Beacon Hill Lodge	Essex	21
Bobier Conv. Home	Elgin	10

ONTARIO SPORTS MEDICINE OFFICE

327. Ms. Copps: How much money is the government spending to establish a central co-ordinating office for sports medicine? Why is the office under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and not that of the Ministry of Health? [Tabled May 1, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Baetz: The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, sports and fitness branch, has allocated \$50,000 towards the establishment and operation of the sports medicine office at the Ontario Sports Centre. It is hoped and expected that the beneficiaries of the services provided by this office are the resident sports governing bodies of this province.

The purpose of the sports medicine office is as follows:

I. Policy and Objectives

1. To develop a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of sports medicine information and/or programs in Ontario.

2. To provide the sports and leadership community at all levels with: (a) an awareness of sports medicine organizations/ agencies and (b) a basic understanding of sports/fitness injuries and injury prevention.

3. To establish committee groups in the following areas: (1) sports medicine council, representing all organizations/agencies in sport; (2) education committee, to establish a unified approach to program development.

II. Description of Services

The sports medicine office is responsible for the following aspects of the program:

1. Gathering information about the services being offered by established organizations/agencies involved in sports medicine;

2. Surveying sports and leadership organizations to establish what is needed and who needs it;

3. Providing the facilitation required to bring the various organizations/agencies involved in sports medicine together for the co-ordination of programming and research;

4. Development and dissemination of information to athletes and leaders;

5. To continue to offer the hockey trainers certification program to the amateur hockey community;

6. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of information, programs and materials.

III. Client Profile

Clients include: provincial sport governing bodies; regional and community groups/ organizations and all individuals involved in sports and/or fitness activities in the province; all sports and fitness leaders in the province; all individuals, groups or organizations involved in sports medicine, sport safety or sports injuries programs.

IV. Eligibility

Anyone interested in prevention and proper care of sports and/or fitness injuries; anyone who participates in physical activity.

In view of the fact that all the above information and services are designed specifically for practitioners of physical activity in general, and high-performance athletes in particular, the program initiative (sports medicine) was under-

taken by the sports and fitness branch of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation because it fits very adequately and definitively with the mandate of the branch.

U.S. DEGREE-GRANTING INSTITUTIONS

335. Mr. Allen: Would the Minister of Colleges and Universities advise the House:

1. Which US degree-granting institutions have applied for consent to offer degree programs in Ontario?
2. Which applicants have been denied such consent?
3. For which programs has consent been granted, to which institutions and at which Ontario locations?
4. What are the terms and conditions, if any, applied to such consents?
5. In which instances has the minister requested proof, in accordance with point 2(b) of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities policy statement re the granting of ministerial consents, that (a) the appropriate accrediting agency has certified that the degree program offered in Ontario meets the same standards that apply to the accredited institution's degree program in the United States and (b) the appropriate accrediting agency has conducted a recent inspection of the premises and training facilities where the degree program is offered in Ontario? What is the nature of the proof received? Have any independent

verification measures been undertaken by the ministry?

6. What assessment has been made of the impact of current and prospective enrolment in the programs for which consent has been granted upon the current and prospective enrolments of Ontario universities offering comparable programs?

7. What information on current and prospective enrolment in programs for which consent has been granted has been requested from the applicant institutions? What information does the ministry have from any other sources on such enrolments?

8. What assessment has the ministry made of admission requirements of programs for which consent has been granted in comparison with admission requirements in comparable Ontario university programs? [Tabled May 9, 1984]

Hon. Miss Stephenson: 1. The following institutions have requested or indicated their intent to request ministerial consents to offer degree programs in Ontario: Alfred Adler Institute of Chicago, Bridgeport University, Central Michigan University, GMI Engineering and Management Institute, Niagara University, Northern Illinois University, Nova University.

2. Nova University.

3. The ministry has indicated to the following institutions that conditional ministerial consents will be granted effective June 30, 1984:

Program	Institution	Location
Master of Manufacturing Management degree	GMI Engineering & Management Institute	Oshawa and London plants
MA in Education	Niagara University	Burlington
MS in Education		Hamilton
		Kitchener
		Mississauga
		Oakville
		Scarborough
		Toronto

4. GMI Engineering and Management Institute: By June 30, 1985, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools must certify, on the basis of site visits, that the program offered in Ontario meets the same standards as it does in the United States.

Niagara University: By June 30, 1985, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education must accredit Niagara University and must certify, on the basis of site

visits, that the programs as offered in Ontario meet the same standards as they do in the United States.

5. In all cases, US institutions are required to have the regional accrediting agency provide the ministry with a statement certifying that the institution is accredited by it and that the accreditation includes the programs offered in Ontario.

The accrediting agency must also provide the

ministry with a statement certifying that it has conducted an inspection of the site where the institution's courses are offered in Ontario and on the basis of the visit it is of the view that the courses offered in Ontario meet the same standards that apply to the programs as offered in the United States with respect to admission requirements, curricula, qualification of faculty, hours of instruction, access to library and laboratory facilities and requirements for graduation.

For specialized or professional programs, the ministry requires that the institutions also have the specialized accreditation and that the specialized accrediting body provide the same statements as the regional agency.

While no additional verification measures are undertaken, it should be noted that the ministry does ensure that the accreditation bodies are those recognized by the US Department of Education.

6. No assessment has been undertaken. Niagara University's programs have been offered for a number of years. To the best of our knowledge, they have had no impact on the enrolment in Ontario universities. GMI Engineering and Management Institute has a unique program not offered at any Ontario universities.

7. No enrolment data are requested as it is not a criterion for granting ministerial consents.

8. It is not a requirement for a ministerial consent that a US institution's programs have the same admission standards as those programs offered by an Ontario university. We do, however, require that the programs offered by the US institution in Ontario have the same standards as the programs it offers in the United States which have been accredited by the regional accreditation agency and specialized accreditation body.

BEER CANS

338. Mr. Charlton: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations table answers to the following questions:

1. What is the current percentage of beer cans to beer bottles being retailed in Ontario?

2. How is this percentage determined?

3. Is there a ratio which has been established by the ministry which determines the number of cans in relation to the number of bottles which breweries can use to contain beer?

4. Is there a regulation or are there guidelines set to determine this ratio?

5. Do the breweries set their own quotas voluntarily on the number of cans that are used

now for beer as opposed to the number of bottles?

6. Is there any restriction on the use of aluminum or any other metal for beer cans? [Tabled May 16, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Elgie: 1. 1.25 per cent.

2. From information provided by Brewers' Warehousing Co. Ltd. for the year ended April 30, 1984.

3. No.

4. No.

5. No. Sales relate to public demand.

6. No.

BUDGET IMPACT

371 to 398. Ms. Bryden et al: Will the ministry provide the following information: (1) What programs in each ministry will be cancelled, cut back or delayed as a result of the provincial budget; (2) how much funding will be lost in each program; (3) how many contract and permanent positions will be eliminated in each program? [Tabled May 18, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No programs have been cancelled, cut back or delayed as a result of the provincial budget.

BUDGET MEASURES

339 to 370. Mr. Foulds: Will the ministry provide the following information regarding each of the programs and initiatives announced in the budget: (1) What are the startup costs; (2) how much money is allocated for this fiscal year; (3) how much money will be spent, by year, in subsequent years; (4) what amount of the total funding will come from (a) the provincial government, (b) the federal government and (c) other sources; (5) how many Ontarians will participate in the program and for what average time period; (6) how much of the budget will go to (a) administrative costs, (b) public relations and (c) other overhead? [Tabled May 18, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Proposals outlined in the budget are now being carried to implementation and specific details are not yet available. However, the information requested could be supplied in many cases as part of the review of the ministries' 1984-85 estimates.

RESPONSE TO PETITION

ADMISSIONS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Sessional paper 86, re use of random selection in admission process for colleges of applied arts and technology.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Thank you for your

memorandum of May 11, 1984, regarding the use of random selection as part of the admission process for colleges of applied arts and technology.

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities currently is conducting a major review of its policy regarding admissions to the colleges of applied arts and technology. A draft of a revised admission policy was circulated to the college system for review in February 1984. Comments and responses received are being reviewed.

Currently, the minimum requirements for admission to post-secondary programs offered by the 22 colleges of applied arts and sciences are: Ontario secondary school graduation diploma (27 credits at the general level) or mature student status (i.e., the applicant has reached the age of 19 years on or before the commencement date of the college program in which the student intends to enrol).

In determining further admission requirements, it is the policy of the Ministry of Colleges

and Universities that colleges of applied arts and technology "are to use only such admissions criteria...and selection techniques as are relevant and appropriate to the nature and the demands of the program."

Random selection is, of course, one selection technique which may be employed. However, the policy of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities explicitly provides that random selection is to be used only as a last resort for oversubscribed programs. Specifically, the policy states:

"Where there are more qualified applicants than spaces available in a given program, after all formal selection procedures have been exhausted, as a last resort, final selection shall be determined randomly, and the format of random selection be applied in the same way in all colleges. Colleges shall carefully explain the selection process, including the random selection format, to the public in their publications."

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(125 members)

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

-
- Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
- Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Energy (Lincoln PC)
- Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Government Services (Durham West PC)
- Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
- Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
- Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC)
- Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)
- Birch, M. (Scarborough East PC)
- Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
- Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
- Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment (Sarnia PC)
- Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
- Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
- Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
- Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
- Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
- Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
- Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
- Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
- Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (York Centre PC)
- Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)
- Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
- Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
- Dean, Hon. G. H., Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Wentworth PC)
- Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
- Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
- Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
- Eaton, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (Middlesex PC)
- Edighoffer, H. A. (Perth L)
- Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)
- Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
- Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
- Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
- Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (St. George PC)
- Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
- Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
- Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
- Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
- Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister of Revenue (Mississauga East PC)
- Grossman, Hon. L. S., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
- Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
- Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
- Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC)
- Henderson, L. C. (Lambton PC)
- Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
- Hodgson, W. (York North PC)
- Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
- Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
- Jones, T., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Mississauga North PC)
- Kells, M. C. (Humber PC)
- Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South PC)
- Kerr, G. A. (Burlington South PC)
- Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
- Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)
- Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)
- Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
- Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional Services (York West PC)
- Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)
- Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
- MacQuarrie, R. W. (Carleton East PC)
- Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
- Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
- McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)
- McCague, Hon. G. R., Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
- McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
- McEwen, J. E. (Frontenac-Addington PC)
- McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
- McKessock, R. (Grey L)
- McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
- McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General (Eglinton PC)

McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)

Miller, Hon. F. S., Minister of Industry and Trade (Muskoka PC)

Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of Health (Kingston and the Islands PC)

O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)

Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)

Rae, R. K. (York South)

Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour (Sault Ste. Marie PC)

Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)

Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)

Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)

Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)

Robinson, A. M. (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)

Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights PC)

Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)

Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)

Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)

Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)

Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)

Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

Scrivener, M. (St. David PC)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)

Spensieri, M. A. (Yorkview L)

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)

Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Carleton-Grenville PC)

Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)

Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General (Simcoe Centre PC)

Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Don Mills PC)

Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)

Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)

Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)

Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Walker, Hon. G. W., Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)

Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent PC)

Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Brock PC)

Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)

Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Williams, J. R. (Oriole PC)

Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

Worton, H. (Wellington South L)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier and President of the Council

Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues

Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Miller, Hon. F. S., Minister of Industry and Trade

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities

McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of Health

Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services

Grossman, Hon. L., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics

McCague, Hon. G., Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Chairman of Cabinet

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Walker, Hon. G. W., Provincial Secretary for Justice

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister of Revenue

Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources

Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional Services

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Government Services
 Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour
 Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development
 Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General
 Eaton, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio
 Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Energy
 Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment
 Dean, Hon. G. H., Provincial Secretary for Social Development
 Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of Citizenship and Culture

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Birch, M. (Scarborough East), assistant to the Premier
 Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East), assistant to the Solicitor General
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound), assistant to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Colleges and Universities
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford), assistant to the Minister of Labour
 Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury), assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing), assistant to the Minister of the Environment
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William), assistant to the Minister of Northern Affairs
 Hodgson, W. (York North), assistant to the Minister of Government Services
 Kells, M. C. (Humber), assistant to the Minister of Transportation and Communications
 Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South), assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
 Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin), assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation
 MacQuarrie, R. W. (Carleton East), assistant to the Attorney General
 McNeil, R. K. (Elgin), assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food
 Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton), assistant to the Minister of Health
 Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North), assistant to the Minister of Revenue
 Robinson, A. M. (Scarborough-Ellesmere), assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Culture
 Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights), assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea), assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development

Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York), assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
 Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox), assistant to the Minister of Industry and Trade
 Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent), assistant to the Minister of Energy
 Williams, J. R. (Orillia), assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
 Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South), assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources

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Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Kolyn; vice-chairman, Mr. MacQuarrie; members, Messrs. Boudria, Breithaupt, Cureatz, Eves, Mitchell, Renwick, Spensieri, Stevenson, Swart and Williams; clerk, F. Carrozza.

General government: members, Messrs. Epp, Foulds, Gillies, Gordon, Haggerty, Harris, Hennessy, Hodgson, McKessock, McLean, Piché and Samis; clerk, G. White.

Resources development: chairman, Mr. Barlow; vice-chairman, Mr. Villeneuve; members, Messrs. Havrot, Lane, Laughren, McNeil, J. A. Reed, Riddell, Stokes, Sweeney, Villeneuve, Watson and Yakabuski; clerk, D. Arnott.

Social development: members, Mr. Allen, Ms. Copps, Messrs. Henderson, R. F. Johnston, Kells, Kerr, McGuigan, Pollock, Robinson, Shymko, Wiseman and Wrye; clerk, L. Mellor.

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Public accounts: chairman, Mr. T. P. Reid; vice-chairman, Mr. Eves; members, Messrs. Bradley, Cunningham, Havrot, Kennedy, Kolyn, Philip, Sargent, Mrs. Scrivener, Messrs. Taylor and Wildman; clerk, F. Carrozza.

Regulations and other statutory instruments: chairman, Mr. Sheppard; vice-chairman, Mr. Gillies; members, Messrs. Cousens, Di Santo, Hennessy, Hodgson, Kerrio, Lupusella, McEwen, Piché, Robinson and Van Horne; clerk, A. Richardson.

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Ombudsman: chairman, Mr. Runciman; vice-chairman, Mr. Van Horne; members, Messrs.

Breithaupt, Di Santo, Eakins, Hennessy, Hodgson, MacQuarrie, Mitchell, Philip, Piché and Shymko; clerk, G. White; associate clerk, D. Arnott.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)
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Eaton, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (Middlesex PC)
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No. 60

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, June 4, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, June 4, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

VISITORS

The Deputy Speaker: Before proceeding, I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery and the public galleries members of the regional council of Puy-de-Dôme, France, who are visiting the Ontario Legislature today to discuss and exchange information with respect to opportunities in the industrial and agricultural sectors and the operation of regional and municipal governments in Ontario.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL

Hon. Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to introduce amendments to the Public Libraries Act.

Interjections.

Hon. Ms. Fish: Hang on just a minute. Copies? I think they are probably coming. I will pause a moment until we make certain.

Ontario's first public library was opened in Niagara-on-the-Lake in June 1800. Legislation enabling municipalities to establish free library services was passed in 1882. Today 880 libraries circulate more than 60 million items annually. These legislative changes are designed to respect and maintain the proud traditions of a first-class library system.

The local public library is a familiar and welcome sight in municipalities across this province. For some, our libraries are portals to the world; for others, they are a peaceful retreat. They help us expand our knowledge, appreciate an author's vision or simply be entertained. Public libraries help us to explore our own traditions and to understand and share the traditions of others. They serve people of all ages, incomes, backgrounds, languages and education.

The Ontario public library program review, headed by Mr. Peter Bassnett, chief librarian of the Scarborough Public Library, was initiated in 1980. I might add that Mr. Bassnett, along with

several colleagues, is with us in the gallery today. That review included 150 meetings held in 50 communities across our province, the presentation of some 360 briefs from interested groups and individuals, and 15 issue-oriented task group reports. Mr. Bassnett's report was followed by draft proposals in a consultation paper to which more than 350 responses were received.

I have continued this dialogue in preparing this legislation. I believe the result is a solid framework that meets today's needs while providing support and scope for future development. Those libraries are most successful that have their roots planted strongly in the community.

This legislation strengthens and expands the principles of free and open access and community control. It recognizes the desirability of co-ordination with school libraries and facilitates the exercise of municipal fiscal responsibility. The legislation encourages co-operation among library boards while ensuring that participation in county-wide systems is voluntary.

French-language services have been strengthened. Complementary ministry initiatives are now in place to assist local boards to respond to changes in the population mix of their communities. The provincial library service has been streamlined and local representation on all boards expanded.

These amendments will ensure the people of Ontario will continue to have one of the best public library systems to be found anywhere.

TEACHING HEALTH UNITS

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, for the past several years it has been a priority of the Ministry of Health to strengthen Ontario's public health system for an expanded role in preventive and community medicine. Today I wish to share with the House the details of a plan to formalize teaching and research within the public health sector through the introduction of teaching health units.

Affiliated with one of the five health sciences centres, a teaching health unit will serve as the public health counterpart of the teaching hospital. Teaching health units will become centres

of excellence in public health service, teaching and research.

I stress that the teaching health unit is not a mechanism for expanding the manpower supply for public health. Rather, the focus will be on the quality of the educational experience. This new model will rationalize the current assortment of programs that provide practical training in public health and will enhance our teaching and research capability in this important health care area.

Through cross-appointments, teaching health units will promote a more positive interaction between professionals from the university setting and those in the field. I am confident this arrangement will create role models for future generations of public health professionals.

Teaching health units will also provide a greater exposure to public health concepts and techniques for undergraduate students who are planning careers in health care or health-related services. Through the program, we hope to instill a community health orientation in young physicians, nurses and other practitioners, and to embed preventive attitudes throughout the health care system.

The ministry will proceed immediately to implement a three-year developmental plan for the formal introduction of teaching health units. The health sciences centres and the associated health units in Ottawa and Hamilton have completed their initial planning and will now begin pilot projects. Initially, the two health units that will be participating in the program are Ottawa-Carleton and Hamilton-Wentworth.

Reflecting the ministry's commitment to strengthen French-language health services in Ontario, the Ottawa teaching health unit will become a bilingual centre for the training of public health personnel. With the public health field gaining in importance, the expansion of French-language services in preventive health care and health promotion is one of the priorities we have established for this program.

Since this is an innovative concept, we will proceed in a deliberate, step-by-step fashion. The progress of this initiative will be monitored by each teaching health unit itself, by an internal ministry advisory committee and by a collaborative evaluation group composed of representatives from the teaching health units, the ministry and outside public health specialists. Towards the end of the developmental stage, the evaluation group will prepare recommendations concerning our future needs and requirements.

The ministry will provide 100 per cent of the funding for the new teaching health units and we are allocating funds in the range of \$500,000 to \$600,000 for the first year of the developmental plan.

We believe teaching health units will improve the image and substance of public health by reinforcing the teaching and research base for the practice of community medicine. We fully expect that our investment will pay dividends through a higher level of community health across Ontario.

2:10 p.m.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, violence against women and children in the home is probably one of the most serious social problems we face today. I have made this statement in the House before, but am going to say it again. The elimination of family violence in Ontario is the top priority of the government of Ontario and the Ministry of Community and Social Services in particular.

It is a fight we are currently waging on a number of fronts. On April 16 last, I outlined the range of activities in which my ministry is involved to counteract family violence. These include expanding transition homes and setting up family resource centres in the north, improving the funding for transition homes, prevention and education, and professional training.

I believe my ministry and the many people we work with, including other ministries of the government of Ontario, social service agencies, professionals and municipalities, have good reason to be proud of what we have achieved so far in identifying and taking action against this type of violence. At the same time, we have pledged to continue to expand our activities and develop new strategies to ensure that the victims of this violence receive the protection and support they so desperately need.

In his budget speech on Tuesday, May 15, the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. Grossman) referred to a series of new initiatives being introduced by the government of Ontario to protect and assist battered women and their children. I would like to take this opportunity to outline some of the details of these new initiatives.

In total, they represent an additional spending of \$3.5 million in 1984-85 and on an ongoing basis. This increases our spending for services for battered women and their children to over \$10 million this fiscal year, \$6.7 million of which is new funding.

Through these new initiatives I am announcing today, we will be attacking the problem from two different directions: First, we will be expanding our provincial shelter system for battered women and their children; second, we will be introducing new emergency assistance and prevention services.

Let me be more specific. I will start with the initiatives aimed at expanding our shelter system.

We expect to expand the current network of 57 shelters, including the existing transition houses and the family resource centres now under development in the north, by an additional 12 new facilities for battered women and their children. My ministry will provide operating funds, under our new improved funding formula announced in February, for six new transition houses with a total of approximately 110 beds in municipalities where local groups are already involved in planning shelters. Our aim is to provide funding to help these groups put those plans into effect.

Also under our improved funding formula, we will be providing operating funds for four new eight-bed to 10-bed family resource centres for women in crisis and their children, to be established in small municipalities where a need has been identified.

Furthermore, negotiations are now under way to develop two church-operated shelters for immigrant women in Toronto's ethnic communities.

For all of these 12 new residential services, we will be providing some assistance with startup expenses. These startup funds will help the service providers to cover a wide variety of costs, including renovations, equipment and staff salaries, during the initial months.

Finally, we will be providing funding for the establishment of a network of safe homes in rural areas across the province. "Safe home" is a term used to describe a private family residence that is used to provide emergency shelter to battered women and their children on a short-term basis. Working with the municipalities, we intend to develop service models that will be appropriate to their local needs. My ministry, in co-operation with the municipalities, will provide financial support for the families who agree to open their homes on an emergency basis to women and children who need a safe place to stay in a hurry.

These safe homes will have links to the nearest social service providers. Where feasible, our plan is to provide funding for outreach workers from these organizations to give crisis counselling and other assistance to women who seek

shelter in nearby safe homes. By the way, this is in keeping with the growing trend for organizations and facilities interested in this most difficult problem to expand their traditional approach to service delivery by providing community outreach assistance.

Those, then, are the residential initiatives we plan to introduce. At the same time, we will be funding a number of types of nonresidential emergency assistance and prevention services to assist battered women.

First, we will be providing funds for four pilot projects to develop crisis telephone services that will provide emergency information for battered women looking for help. Our plan is to give funds to existing social agencies to enable them to establish 24-hour local or area telephone crisis services. This will permit us to evaluate the effectiveness of this type of service in one large urban centre and two rural municipalities in the south, and also in one northern Ontario community.

At the same time, my ministry, together with the Ontario women's directorate under the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch), will be enhancing our efforts in the areas of prevention, education and public awareness. As part of these efforts, we will be continuing the development of our film library. This library currently lends, free of charge, films on the subject of wife assault to professionals and to concerned nonprofessionals.

We will also be developing various training materials, including two prevention kits, one for the general public and the other for professional people, and we will be continuing to offer training sessions to professional people in the community and to the staff of the transition homes. The emphasis here is on improving the skills of people whose work brings them into contact with family violence situations.

In the area of public awareness, to augment the work of the Ontario women's directorate we will be developing pamphlets and brochures in other languages for new Canadians as well as providing information to native women in their own language. Under the initiatives I am announcing today we will be providing additional funds to continue all these projects.

I believe the initiatives I am announcing today demonstrate the ministry's deep concern about this important social problem and our determination to work towards eliminating the problem of domestic violence in Ontario. Let me assure all members once again that we will in no way decrease those efforts until the daily lives of all women and children in this province are freed

from the pain and tragedy of violence in the home.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health regarding his policy on the funding, both operating and capital, of hospital care in this province, because there is a considerable amount of ambiguity. He will no doubt be aware that during discussions he has had in the House he was not prepared to commit himself on the subject.

I refer the minister to Hospital Highlights, the last edition, in which Randy Reid, the executive director of the ministry's institutional division, explains: "Hospitals certainly have to avoid thinking that we will be able to automatically kick in with two thirds. Those days are long gone.... It's a modest change in policy, I suppose...."

I want to give the minister this opportunity to clear up the policy. What is his policy with respect to the capital funding of hospitals, recognizing, as I am sure he is aware, that the Ontario Hospital Association predicts that the shortfall in capital funding alone over the next 10 years will be some \$4.5 billion; recognizing that Metro Toronto alone needs \$150 million this year in capital upgrading, and recognizing that the minister has put phenomenal pressure on hospitals to turn to charity to fund their operating costs? What is his policy, when did he back off and why did he back off?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as I have explained in the House before in response to either questions from the honourable leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition or those of other members opposite, there has been no official change in the policy with respect to funding the capital cost of hospitals.

Mr. Bradley: What about an unofficial change?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I have explained precisely what has occurred. Everyone is aware of the fact that generally in our society we are faced with the effects of the recent experience of the economic circumstances in our economy; and even though we are in a period of recovery, it would appear it has not yet impacted directly upon revenues. As a result, we have had to live with the reality that less money is available for capital programs than we might describe as optimal.

Given this situation, we have clearly had to make some very tough priority decisions. We have not been experiencing major cutbacks in capital funding, but we have been facing a situation in which obviously the requests that are coming in from hospitals across the province have exceeded the available resources. Certainly in some cases one might say we have departed from the official policy in that we have said to hospitals, "If you have more than the normal share of the capital so you might be able to proceed more quickly with your project, then obviously we would consider you before others who require the full two thirds," if that was the funding share we were looking at.

Mr. Bradley: You have got money for the ads.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Those are very inexpensive ads.

Mr. Bradley: Self-congratulatory ads. That is what you are spending your money on.

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, not at all. We do believe the public is entitled to know what this government is doing and we are very open about that. From time to time it is necessary for us to rely upon the media to communicate it because we cannot always be sure the members are going to do it objectively.

Mr. Bradley: Is the minister saying the news people are not doing their jobs properly?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The minister is just wrapping up his reply.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, as a matter of fact I am, Mr. Speaker.

To summarize, there is no official change in policy, but on a purely pragmatic basis, in some instances where hospitals are able to provide more than the normal share of capital, it has meant they have been able to move ahead before others.

Mr. Peterson: The minister said there is no official change in policy in spite of the fact Mr. Randy Reid says there is a change in policy. What the minister is saying is the better-off communities will go ahead because they have more money, and the less well-off communities will suffer because they cannot come up with their share of capital funding.

How does the minister explain what Dan Drown, the executive director of the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto, said? He said the government does not have a stated policy on capital funding. There are clearly indicated

restrictions on the kind of new approach hospitals can take.

The reality is that no one except perhaps the minister, and I have no understanding that even that is the case, understands what is going on in his ministry. Would he not agree with me that it is discriminatory to favour the better-off communities and not help the ones that really need help, such as Nipigon? There are many more. Would he not take it upon his shoulders to enunciate clearly a policy with respect to hospital funding when there is such a chronic need in this province?

Hon. Mr. Norton: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I do not know how the member would define better-off communities. If he cites communities in northern Ontario, then I would recognize that in some instances they may have less of a base than others to draw upon for capital fund-raising.

He also ought to look at the programs we do have in place, not only involving my ministry but also involving the Ministry of Northern Affairs, where special assistance is provided to northern communities to enable them to provide the kind of health care services that will enable them to bring their standards up to an appropriate level for their communities.

With respect to southern Ontario, again the member has to be more specific in discussing this with me as to how he describes the better-off communities. I do not mean to single out one community, but I think it is noteworthy that the community of Owen Sound has managed to raise something in excess of \$12 million for its present hospital construction program.

It is not a large community. It may be more prosperous than some, but I think it is an outstanding achievement. It shows a very real commitment on the part of the people of Owen Sound and the surrounding community in that they were prepared to make that kind of commitment to the capital construction program of their hospital facilities.

Mr. Martel: Come on; seven and a half minutes.

Mr. Wrye: This is not a filibuster.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Listen, if the member wants to ask me questions relating to policy on capital funding, the members should permit him to do so. They should also permit me to answer the questions.

With respect to Metropolitan Toronto, one has just to look at the total amount of capital being raised in the community generally. It is fine for Metropolitan Toronto to say it is running into some difficulty with raising its share of the

capital costs for new direct care and health care facilities, but at the same time it is able to raise many millions of dollars for non-direct-care facilities, such as major research centres, that are not part of the programs in which we share costs at all. It has to reassess its priorities with respect to capital fund-raising.

I am in the process of having a review conducted of the whole issue of capital funding. There has been no change in policy to date. There might be a change in policy at the conclusion of that review, which is just now getting under way. I am doing so because of the concern I have that if the present situation should continue indefinitely, then I want to have some clear options set out for the hospitals.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, it is with some trepidation that I ask a very simple question. Since the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) has spent so much time talking about the hospital in Timmins, can the Minister of Health say specifically if his ministry approved the construction of a new hospital there? How much funding is the ministry going to kick in on a percentage basis?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I believe there has been an outstanding commitment from the ministry, going back even prior to my incumbency, with respect to hospital facilities in Timmins. As of yet we have not approved any specific project for the replacement of those facilities. A proposal has been made and discussions are to take place between staff in the ministry and representatives of the board in Timmins with respect to the most effective way in which to meet their needs. I am not sure whether the discussions have taken place yet. Whatever is decided will not necessarily meet all their expectations. Nevertheless, there has been no approval of a specific proposal yet.

Ms. Copps: Is that the appointed board of the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope)?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course, I would not be in a position to talk about the quantum of dollars until I know what the details of the project are.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that a crisis is developing everywhere in this province?

Interjection.

Mr. Peterson: Yes, there is.

It is not just on the capital side but on the operating side as well. The minister will recall that a year or so ago his predecessor, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), had

to put another \$110 million into the hospitals to cover operating deficits.

Is the minister now aware that the Ontario Hospital Association is projecting for this year a further \$60 million in operating deficits? This is after his ministry had said there would be no more deficits. How is the minister going to fund those operating deficits that have developed during the last year right under his nose?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the \$110 million that was provided, I believe in the early part of 1982, was to increase the base budgets of hospitals. It introduced clearly, once and for all, the policy that there would be no funding of deficits. That policy still remains, and I intend to adhere to it strictly.

We do have a formula for those hospitals that experience uncontrolled growth in work load or a significant growth in life support costs. That formula assists them with the increased cost, which otherwise would be a deficit. For unapproved expenditures and unapproved additions to staff, any expenditures that are undertaken by hospitals that are not substantiated by either work load or growth in life support requirements, the deficits will not be funded.

We have been providing assistance to those hospitals by way of management advice. In a few cases we have had to put inspectors into those hospitals and we will continue to do so. It is amazing how, once there is an inspector in some of those hospitals, they are able to bring their budgets into line without cutting service.

Mr. Peterson: The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) was right here in front of my eyes and he has disappeared. Where could he possibly be? Could we shout at him? Perhaps he will hear us.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I could get up on a point of order if you like.

Ms. Copps: I have a point of order.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I think my colleague has a point of order.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of privilege, actually. It relates to—

Mr. Rae: Oh?

Mr. McClellan: Stop the clock, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Copps: Excuse me, I have a point of privilege. I think those people would be the first to say it has to be heard before it can be determined not to be a point of privilege. This is a very serious matter for the city of Hamilton. It deals with the paramedics program and an announcement that was made by the Minister of

Health in this House that Hamilton would be one of the test centres for the paramedics program.

The minister will no doubt be aware there was a newspaper article last weekend which suggested that if the workers were not prepared to—

2:30 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member please take her seat for a moment.

Ms. Copps: In fact, Mr. Speaker—

The Deputy Speaker: Just a moment, with all due respect, it is not a question of privilege. We have confusion about what is a point of order and what is a question of privilege. A question of privilege, as members ought to know, relates to matters of privilege where it impinges upon those privileges we as a collective group hold by being in this place.

Mr. Martel: We are now down to 15 minutes and we have had one question. We are going great.

The Deputy Speaker: Now I did hear the member. Does the Minister of Health want to make a brief comment? It is not a question. The question can come up in question period.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, on the basis of what I have heard, it seems to me the member was implying I might have been other than fully open with the House. I want to make it clear I am here and willing and able to respond to that matter in the form of a question. If she would like to hear the truth, she should ask the question.

Mr. Martel: If it is not a question of privilege, why is the minister answering it?

The Deputy Speaker: We will deal with this in question period. The minister will take his seat.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, if it is not a question of privilege, why are you recognizing him, for God's sake?

The Deputy Speaker: It was on a question of privilege, and it turned out not to be a question. We will add a moment on to the question period to take care of that. We will proceed now with the second question from the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Martel: It was not even a point of privilege and you know it. Why recognize an answer then?

The Deputy Speaker: Just on a point of clarification to the member for Sudbury East, as in the case where I dealt with your caucus, I wanted to hear whether it was a point of privilege.

Mr. Martel: And it was not. You do not recognize an answer then.

The Deputy Speaker: Then I listened to the Minister of Health because he claimed to have a point of privilege. Neither had one.

Mr. Peterson: I will stand down my question until the Minister of the Environment returns, if I may.

The Deputy Speaker: Do we have agreement?

Ms. Copps: Yes.

VICTORIA RETIREMENT HOME

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health concerning the coroner's inquest last week on tragic events that took place at the Victoria Retirement Home in the town of Ayr. A Mr. Bannerman, aged 75, died on September 28, 1983, at approximately 9:30 a.m. Is the minister aware that at this retirement home Mr. Bannerman lost about 115 pounds in eight months? At the end of the coroner's inquest it was determined that the cause of death was bronchial pneumonia, and the coroner's jury decided it was caused by self-inflicted starvation.

One of the chief recommendations coming out of the coroner's jury from the tragic death of Mr. Bannerman was that there needed to be standards clearly established for those in rest homes and retirement homes in the province and that there needed to be enforcement of those standards. There needed to be a checkup on people and some way of ensuring that the health of people was being maintained.

How many deaths and how many mishaps is it going to take in privately run rest homes and retirements homes in this province before the ministry finally recognizes that there need to be province-wide standards and regulations to ensure that tragedies of this kind never occur again?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the form in which the question was presented surely does not invite a serious, specific response to it. I know what the member is driving at. I am not familiar with the specific case he raises. I shall see if it is possible for me to obtain a copy of the coroner's report. As the member is aware, my ministry does not have jurisdiction over retirement homes or rest homes—

Mr. Rae: That is the problem.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —therefore, it might not have been brought to my attention. We have discussed this matter in estimates and in this House on a number of occasions. We certainly recommend that standards be enforced in a

variety of ways, such as by the municipal level of government. If there are concerns with respect to the health care aspect of individuals in those homes, then we would be pleased to have the medical officer of health, for example, have a look at the situation.

However, on the basis of specific, isolated incidents I do not believe the only conclusion is that there ought to be a province-wide administrative procedure established for the regulation of homes that people may privately choose to live in.

Mr. Rae: This home was listed in the phone book as a nursing home and the man's nephew, who put him there, thought it was a nursing home. Mr. Bannerman went into this home weighing 200 pounds and when he came out he weighed 85 pounds. The undertaker who saw the body said he had never in all his experience seen a body in that condition.

I would like to ask the minister how many deaths it is going to take before the government wakes up to the fact that there are thousands of people in private retirement homes and rest homes where there are no standards? Apart from municipal bylaws on fire and the odd inspection of that kind, there are no basic standards with respect to health or recreational activity. There is no checkup or enforcement carried out on a province-wide basis to ensure there are not other people in a similar condition in Ontario today.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is basically the same question that was asked a moment ago. I would respond in basically the same way, although I would add that I will see if I can get a copy of the coroner's report, and I am sure I can.

I do not know what the cause of the weight loss might be. There are certainly many situations where persons have entered hospitals or nursing homes or a variety of other places and lost weight, not necessarily because of starvation, but because of declining health. I do not know what the condition of this gentleman's health was and I can only respond fully to the member's question when I have had an opportunity to look at the coroner's report.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health pointed out that it was not within his jurisdiction to implement regulations governing the rest homes of Ontario.

He will no doubt be aware that his colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) was approached some time ago by the Rest Home Association of Ontario, seeking some province-wide regulation to weed out those rest

homes and establishments that do not provide adequate service.

I wonder if he could impose upon his colleague and if they could put their collective heads together and develop a continuum of care in Ontario for the elderly and for those who are forced to live in nursing homes, rest homes and other homes in order to make sure they are all governed by province-wide regulation, which is important.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think my colleague heard the question. We get along very well. I would point out that we do not have collective heads; we have two separate heads.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, when the minister is looking into this case, he might find that this gentleman lost 115 pounds, not over a short time but over eight months. He was medically neglected over that entire period by this rest home.

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cooke: There will also be an inquest taking place in Chatham this week into a death at the Canadianna Retirement Home.

What is it going to take for the minister to come to the conclusion that municipalities do not have the authority, the power or the resources properly to regulate these facilities? While this government neglects its responsibility, people's health is being put at risk. When is the minister going to act to protect the thousands of people in rest homes in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I really do think the answer to that question is essentially the same as the answer to the two questions asked by the leader of the third party.

2:40 p.m.

BEACH POLLUTION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the newly returned Minister of the Environment. It concerns the announcement on Friday that five beaches in Toronto are going to remain closed for the foreseeable future. The information, for example, is that Humber River beach has 27 times the permissible concentration of faecal coliform in the water.

The city of York needs \$90 million for sewage separation, East York needs about \$35 million and our information is that Scarborough needs somewhat less. Outside Local 183 on Dupont Street, there are literally hundreds of people milling around every morning waiting for a job call. Does the minister not think it should be possible for the government of this province to

put together those two ends of a problem and find a solution?

There are unemployed labourers in this province who are waiting for a chance to work. Kids and families are waiting for a chance to swim this summer and future summers. Does the minister not think he owes it to the people of Toronto to start right away with a major sewage separation program that will ensure that in the next decade we will not have thousands of children unable to swim in Lake Ontario because of the neglect and inactivity of this government?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the honourable member in response to a question last week, there is no jurisdiction anywhere in Canada that has a sewage separation program as advanced as Ontario's. Let us get that on the record first.

You allowed a series of questions, Mr. Speaker, and I will try to address all of them. A separation program as far upstream as some of the municipalities the member is talking about would have absolutely marginal impact on the quality of water at the Toronto beaches. The beach program we are working on in co-operation with Metro Toronto has effectively just got under way. We are reasonably satisfied with the results to date.

If the leader of the third party will recall, I made statements to the effect that I was not optimistic that all beaches would be open, but we are optimistic that we are on the right track with respect to improving the quality of recreational water at the Toronto waterfront, and we are moving towards finding some solutions to those problems.

In addition, we have a very extensive study ongoing at the moment with respect to the Humber and Don rivers in particular. We are trying to determine exactly where the point sources of those areas of pollution are. The member does not know, and I will not know until the study is completed, exactly where we should be expending our money in the most effective way possible.

Simply to throw money at the problem, which is constantly the solution of the third party, will not work. This side of the House, this party, this government are going to spend the money where it is most effective, where it will get the biggest bang for the buck and the most results for our efforts.

Mr. Rae: No one could ever accuse the minister of throwing money at the problem. He has cut his budget for project engineering by \$9 million in the last budgetary year; since 1982-83

it has gone from \$183 million down to \$140 million. He is not throwing money at the problem. All he is throwing at it is his rhetoric in the Legislature of this province.

At the current pace it is going to take the city of York 45 years to complete the separation of sewage. I would like to ask the minister whether he is aware that, until the sewage separation is completed, every time it rains in the west end of Toronto it means raw sewage goes into the Humber River and Lake Ontario? What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I wish one could say the louder the rhetoric, the faster the solution. Obviously, whenever the leader of the third party asks a question he has to get the voice level up to the point where our hearing is impaired.

I have indicated to the leader of the third party on a number of occasions that our programs are not only effective but also the most advanced in Canada. He says \$140 million is not adequate for our capital program for this year. I want to assure him that at no point have any of the municipalities that made applications to my ministry for funding in this current year been turned down because of lack of funding.

I have been provided with more than adequate funding by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). I do not yet know whether that will be the case through the full year. We are using the taxpayers' money judiciously, and the member should take a leaf from our book.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, given the need that everyone except perhaps the minister can see for major capital works in that area to solve the problem; given the ministry's measly, parsimonious contribution so far of some \$3 million; given that the hot weather has not even started, five beaches are closed and the minister knows the disaster that lies ahead this summer—even he can figure that out; given these visible problems right now, is he not getting tired of making that same silly speech all the time about how Ontario leads?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I do not have any difficulty at all. In fact, I never get tired of telling those people over there how Ontario leads, because it happens to be the truth, I am sorry. The reality is that the \$3 million the Leader of the Opposition talks about as being so measly happens to be almost the self-same contribution as by his federal colleagues. After a great deal of coercion, I might add, on the part of this minister and this ministry, we were able to get about the same amount of money out of his partners in

Ottawa. I would suggest to him it is not a measly contribution.

The amount of money involved, \$3 million over two years, happens to be the exact amount of money requested by Metro Toronto as part of the beach cleanup program. They did not ask for any more and they did not receive any less. They received exactly what they requested.

We have a comprehensive plan that seems to be acceptable to the city of Toronto and Metro Toronto, which recognize the complexities of the problem. It is not as simple as the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the third party have suggested, that we go out and spend literally hundreds of millions of dollars cleaning up areas where we may not have a problem.

The scientific evidence to this point indicates that a great deal of the problem is associated with urban runoff, which is something no urban municipality anywhere in the world has controlled. That urban runoff cannot be controlled by separating sewers, by improving sewage treatment plants or by stopping industrial discharges, because it comes from the streets and other forms of contamination that are not controllable. We cannot simply spend more money and know we are immediately going to get an impact that is going to clean up the beach problem.

Mr. Rae: Let the record show the minister said in this House that sewage treatment will not solve the problem of material running into the sewers of the city of Toronto and Metro Toronto.

The Deputy Speaker: Question.

Mr. Rae: I would like to just say to the minister—

The Deputy Speaker: Do not say; ask a question.

Mr. Rae: —that may be good for Paul Godfrey; he may have satisfied Paul Godfrey, but he has not satisfied the parents and kids in the city of Toronto, the city of York and the city of Etobicoke, who will not be able to swim this summer.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member please put his question or take his seat.

Mr. Rae: Can the minister confirm that it will take 45 years for the city of York to complete its sewage separation program unless there is additional funding, unless there is a change in funding? Can he confirm that the problem of discharges into the Humber River and the Don River is at least part of the cause for the very real pollution that is going on at the Humber River outflow? Can he at least confirm those two facts?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Given the two questions again—he always asks a series of them—yes, I will confirm that part of the problem could very well be contamination coming from combined sewers. I cannot confirm the numbers with respect to the 45 years that are going to be required by a municipality to complete its separation program.

I can only tell the leader of the third party that while we are standing here arguing and discussing the merits of a separation program in this province, there are many jurisdictions in the world that would love to have the combined system that some of those municipalities have in place at present.

We are so far ahead of other jurisdictions that we are talking about the next level up, the next level of sophistication in terms of treatment. The reality is that it may take some years to complete that program; I make that admission. But until this time it has not been solely a provincial responsibility, as the leader of the third party knows; in fact, it has been specifically a municipal responsibility.

2:50 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Minister of the Environment, and I will give him an opportunity to make the same speech again.

My question concerns the Environmental Assessment Act. The minister will be aware that some years ago we brought that showpiece legislation into this province, and then it was systematically emasculated, as he knows, by the exemptions granted under section 29 of that act. He has even alienated the United Church of Canada in that regard. The minister will be aware that the United Church study said that something like 82 per cent of the applications were exempted by the ministry.

Subsequent to that, the government appointed the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee to advise him—

The Deputy Speaker: Will the member please ask his question?

Mr. Peterson: I want to bring the minister up to date on the history and let him practise his speech one more time.

The minister will be aware that, out of the seven or so cases in which decisions have been made, he has gone against the advice of the assessment advisory committee on two occasions; in fact, he has proceeded with Highways 403 and 407 in the parkway belt

system and the Toronto Transit Commission Park Home subway station without environmental assessments.

Why, after appointing that committee to advise him, has the minister continued with his past bad habits to make a mockery of that legislation by exempting right underneath the act?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the Environmental Assessment Act was put in place by this government, and it is working effectively where it has application and is needed. The committee the Leader of the Opposition is referring to does advise the minister. As he is well aware, the minister is under no obligation to accept that advice; he takes it under consideration, along with staff reports and a myriad of information that is brought to the minister's attention, and he acts upon that information in determining whether an environmental assessment is required.

As the honourable member is well aware, the legislation is drafted in such a way as to cover all things that are involved in the act in the sense that nothing is left out unless it is exempted. Therefore, exemptions have to be granted for certain undertakings where there is no environmental threat and where there is no undertaking that is going to be at all hazardous or dangerous to the environment. In those instances we simply grant an exemption, and there is nothing inappropriate or incorrect about that. The legislation called for it, it anticipated it and we are following that legislation absolutely to the letter as laid down when it was originally passed.

Mr. Peterson: The minister put these matters to the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee and in two cases out of seven he rejected its advice and provided an exemption. What is the point of having that committee give him independent, objective, quality advice and then rejecting it? Why is he emasculating that committee, which the government appointed only under pressure and whose advice he is rejecting?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The committee was not appointed under pressure, and for me to be out of step with the committee on two out of seven occasions is a reasonably good batting average. There are other considerations that a minister in any portfolio or any responsibility has to take into consideration when he is reviewing the advice of an outside committee.

If the member were to take a look at the opposite side of his argument, he might suggest that the minister should have no option whatever

to overturn the decision or the recommendation of an advisory committee. That, in my view, would not be appropriate. The first thing we would hear from the members opposite us would be, "Why does the minister not take advantage of the opportunity to make a change in this situation?"

We are operating responsibly and we are using the legislation in an appropriate fashion.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a question related to the first one with respect to the pollution of the beaches. The minister will be aware that one of the other causes of the pollution of the beaches, according to many experts, is the number of landfill sites that have been filled along the lake during the last dozen years in extending the harbourfront. These sites have affected the currents and therefore the outflow of certain sewage material.

Can the minister at least give us the assurance that any future lakefill projects will receive a full environmental assessment and that their impact on the quality of drinking and swimming water will be taken into account?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, that is a very good question. I cannot give the honourable member an absolute undertaking that in all instances there will be an environmental assessment. I share the same concerns he has raised with respect to the change in some of the currents caused by the infilling that has occurred. This is particularly applicable to the Leslie Street extension where that landfill has occurred and it has affected some of the currents. I am also concerned that it was an undertaking on the part of the federal government and was automatically exempt from an environmental assessment.

I cannot give the member an undertaking that all infilling that occurs in the future is necessarily going to come under the act. Not only do I agree it is a very good question but I have exactly the same concerns that he has. My staff is attempting to determine what the impact of some of that infilling is on both recreational and drinking water quality. I will be as sensitive about that point as the member apparently is in raising the question and I will give him that assurance.

Mr. Peterson: The minister will be aware that he has granted a temporary exemption to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) regarding the granting of rights to Ontario public land. He will be aware that the exemption—presumably it is only temporary—comes due at the end of this month.

Considering that blanket exemption involved literally thousands of activities on a very large

percentage of the land in Ontario, may we have his assurance that he will not grant an extension of the exemption to the Minister of Natural Resources? Will he assure us that he, as Minister of the Environment, will keep control over the environment, look at it on a case-by-case basis and grant no more temporary or permanent exemptions to that ministry?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The extension the Leader of the Opposition is referring to is something that I believe is coming up at the end of this month; I will review it at that time. I cannot give an undertaking now that I will automatically revert to a case-by-case review requiring a full environmental assessment. However, I will be most pleased to report back to the House on the reasons and the justifications for whatever I do.

I can assure the member that in the case of some of the undertakings he is discussing within the context of the Ministry of Natural Resources, there is no reason now to require a full environmental assessment. Where one is justified or required to protect the environment—where there is even any hint of an environmental concern of any kind—I will require an environmental assessment. I can give the member that assurance.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. I am sure the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) will be interested. I wish the Premier (Mr. Davis) were here, because this a pretty important question as it relates to the tourist industry in Ontario.

Is the minister aware of the promises made by Dr. Chant in the phase 3 interim report on Ontario waste management? I will read excerpts: "To obtain and verify information, discussions will be held with local community groups, businesses and government officials." In another place, Dr. Chant suggested: "There would be a broader range of land use and socioeconomic factors when evaluating these lands." No such studies have taken place and no such co-operation has come about.

The Deputy Speaker: Question?

Mr. Kerrio: Is the minister aware that the mayor of Niagara Falls, Ontario, and the mayor of Niagara Falls, New York, had a press conference to tell all those who would listen that such a dialogue had not taken place? They wanted to make it known that there are people across this province who are very concerned

about the disastrous consequences of selecting one of the world's major tourist attractions as a dump site for this part of North America.

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, this undertaking of the Ontario Waste Management Corp. could hardly be called a dump site. It is probably the most advanced, sophisticated industrial waste treatment system being proposed anywhere in the industrialized world. The latest, most up-to-date technology is to be incorporated in that treatment plant and I suggest it is a little more than just a dump site.

Specifically on the question about the commitment of Dr. Chant, the member recognizes that it is an arm's-length crown corporation. However, I understand through discussions I have had with Dr. Chant that public meetings have been held in Niagara Falls and that there have been a number of discussions. In fact, I was in Niagara Falls and discussed the issue with a number of local people.

If the member is suggesting that adequate discussions have not been held, forgetting for the moment and leaving aside the merits of the location of the facility, I would be more than happy during the next discussions I have with Dr. Chant to pass on the member's concerns with respect to a full and complete airing of the issue with the local residents, including the municipalities.

Mr. Bradley: That is not what Bill Smeaton says.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I heard the comments of the mayor of Niagara Falls and I cannot share all his concerns.

As the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) knows, I happen to have in my riding at the present time an industrial waste treatment plant that treats something in the order of 30 per cent of all the industrial waste generated in Ontario. I can tell him that it is not nearly as sophisticated as the plant being proposed by the Ontario Waste Management Corp.

I think we should go a little in the direction of trying to ease the concerns of some of the residents of our respective areas, because I think the member would agree that if the question was asked, "Do we require a treatment plant of this kind in Ontario?" there would be a unanimous voice over there saying, "Yes, we do."

The moment we try to find a site for a plant in any riding, irrespective of the appropriateness of the riding, we immediately get a political reaction, which I can justify and understand to a certain extent, but the reality is that this

government and this ministry have a responsibility to find a site for that plant, and we are going to do so in the most proper, responsible way possible.

Mr. Kerrio: Perhaps I can read one paragraph by D. Gordon Paul, president of the Niagara Falls, Canada, Visitor and Convention Bureau: "You know, had Dr. Chant spoken with the tourist industry before making his short list, he would have known the facts. Instead, he dropped the bomb first and asked the questions after."

We are talking about 15 million people who visit that great tourist attraction at Niagara. We know the industrial waste has to go somewhere. In spite of the lovely floral speech the minister gave about it, they are going to call it a dump site.

The mayor of Niagara Falls, New York, Mayor O'Laughlin, came over and said, "What are you doing over there fighting a case about dumping in the river when you are going to build a site that is going to contaminate our Niagara Falls, New York?" He is going to fight it vigorously with all the people of Niagara who say: "We need a site. We cannot afford to have it in Niagara. We cannot afford to jeopardize one of the finest tourist industries in all of Canada and in all of America."

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I am not sure whether there was a question.

Mr. Kerrio: The question is this: Is the minister going to answer Mayor O'Laughlin about contaminating Niagara Falls, New York, while he is fighting a case of them contaminating Canada?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Let me assure the honourable member that in no way, shape or form are we going to contaminate the Niagara River or Niagara Falls, New York. He has been attendance during the course of the discussions we have had in this House over the S site, the SCA site, 102nd Street, all of those wonderful American sites that are causing us problems with potential leachate into the Niagara River and into the drinking water supply used by some 4.5 million Ontarians.

He knows that. If he thinks for a moment that we are going to take a chance on the drinking water supply of the people of Ontario by putting in a dump site that is going to leach or discharge any level of contamination into the natural environment, he has another guess coming because we are not going to do it.

Mr. Kerrio: It is in the brochure.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I have read the brochure.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services in the light of his statement today. We welcome the additional moneys going into assistance for victims of family violence, but under the minister's improved funding formula, as he calls it in his announcement, why is there no recognition of the role of day care or child care and counselling that is done in a lot of transition homes?

Why has he not come forward with a program of block funding, which I understand is being followed in other provinces with Canada assistance plan support, if the information coming out of the meeting a week or so ago is accurate? Why did the minister not make a move in that direction to recognize the breadth of services being provided in the homes?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, first, I think we recognize the breadth of services being provided. There are arrangements for purchase of service with existing or newly developed community services. One of the main problems in the early difficult days of transition houses or women's shelters was when they tried to do it all alone. There were some difficulties and many of them simply were unable to get off the ground.

Block funding is one way of providing funds; however, we think the present arrangement with the substantial municipal component, which must go far beyond dollars because it means support, is superior in the long run to any block funding.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question with regard to the minister's statement today. He particularly mentioned that he was planning "enhancing our efforts in the area of prevention, education and public awareness."

If this is one of his major commitments, is he putting any of the new funds into the very valuable work done by volunteer organizations in this field, such as Support Services for Assaulted Women which has been doing public education on the subject of battered wives for several years, but which is about to lay off its staff and close its doors because it does not receive any provincial help at present?

In view of the fact that the standing committee on social development on battered wives recommended that organizations of this sort should receive provincial funding, will the minister commit some money to assisting this kind of organization before it does have to close its doors?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, what I announced today is in conjunction with developments that will shortly come forward from the Ontario women's directorate. I pointed that out when I said "together with the Ontario women's directorate." Most of ours concern education and various training materials, including the prevention kits. The emphasis is on improving the skills of people whose work brings them into contact with family violence situations.

In regard to the member's question, I will have somebody take a look at the problems of the organization she mentioned.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, it has been many months since the government announced this response. It has been more than a year since the Minister of Community and Social Services announced his individual response with respect to the report of the standing committee on social development on wife battering. I wonder if the minister can answer a two-part question.

First, we still do not know how much research money is going to be available to researchers across Ontario, such as the group at McMaster University involving Dr. John Byles and others who have an eminent record in research into family violence and who have been refused help by the minister and by the government, in their future research projects. We do not know how much of the money that is being promised is being spent.

3:10 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Question, please.

Ms. Copps: We do not know how much money is going to be set aside for research into the problem. Why does the minister continue to insist block funding is only one option when it was the only option endorsed by every group and every individual appearing before the committee to talk about the issue of block funding, with the exception of perhaps one or two individuals?

If the minister disputes that fact, I am sure Trudy Don from the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses is prepared to speak to it. Why does the minister not agree with all the groups that were so insistent they needed block funding in order to guarantee their survival?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, it is not simply my feeling but that of the ministry and a great many others that the present funding formula, including the improvements and enhancements made possible by the tremendous budget of my colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), is providing for the new system of transition

houses, services, shelters and a number of other things across Ontario. It is that simple. I do not think even block funding would produce as much.

With respect to the research capability and the organization mentioned by the honourable member, we have replied and told it that type of project simply was not in our plans. It may very well be within the work of the Ontario women's directorate that will be coming forward shortly.

NATURAL GAS FURNACES

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations concerning the use of automatic damper systems on natural gas furnaces.

Since his ministry has been testing a variety of damper systems, which may prevent up to 30 per cent of the heat of a natural gas furnace from escaping up the chimney, can he tell me when he expects to be able to announce the approval of a mechanism that could be installed to save at least half the heat from such furnaces now escaping up the chimney?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I know this is an issue about which the honourable member has had considerable correspondence and numerous conversations with the fuels safety division of my ministry. I am sure he is also aware the Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council, made up of representatives of various provinces, has expressed its view on this.

Ontario has been supportive of that viewpoint, which says that retrofitting furnaces means the possibility of some hazards that are not there with original equipment. For that reason, no province in this country to date been in favour of retrofitting dampers.

Mr. Ruston: Such equipment has been used in the United States for seven years and in Germany for 20 years now. One mechanism of which I am aware, Effikal, has been used in Ontario on some tests. In fact, I am aware of some that have been used for up to two years. There are inspectors who have come in and had them removed. They said as far as they were concerned, they would have them on their own furnaces if they were legal.

Does the minister not think it is time that he took a closer look at that mechanism?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I have very little to add other than that this whole issue has been thoroughly reviewed by the Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council. If the honourable member thinks it warrants a review once again, I will certainly draw that to the attention of the executive director

of the fuels safety branch. I will not give a commitment that we will review the policy unless there is substantial agreement there has been a change from the decision reached in the not too distant past.

CLOSURE OF HOMES FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services concerning the announced closure of the Durham Centre for the Developmentally Handicapped.

Is it still his intention to proceed with the announced closing of the Durham Centre, even though in the past two years he has yet to approve one new proposal for community care in that region?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I would reply yes, but I would remind the honourable member that the closing of or the provision of alternatives to care at the Durham Centre is some time away.

We stated very clearly in the beginning that we would not be consulting individually with parents or getting into the type of thing the member has just asked about until very late in this year or in the early part of next year.

Mr. Breaugh: The minister is aware that he has received a number of proposals for community-based care from the associations in the area. Does he not think it would be a rational move now, if he does intend to proceed with the closure, to put community-based care in place and to give himself a year or two years to phase it in?

It would appear that he has good proposals, which are being reviewed by his ministry, but we have yet to see one of those proposals get approval. Would it not be a reasonable thing to approve and put in place his community-based care program before he proceeded with the closure?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Before the situation at Durham is finalized, the alternatives will be in place. But I would draw to the honourable member's attention that we said it would be very late this year or the early part of next year before we got down to discussing it with the parents.

It is great to ask, "Why do you not approve proposals?" They are approved only with the consent of parents, and that is what has happened in the first four situations.

Mr. Wrye: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

The Deputy Speaker: One brief one, if you will. You will recall that we mentioned one extra minute, if all members are agreeable.

Agreed to.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the earlier closings have been accompanied by a last-minute scramble and a last-minute concern by many parents about where their kids were going, and in view of the fact that his ministry in certain cases was forced to delay the final closing because placements were not set, why does the minister not sit down with those parents and begin those discussions now rather than wait until the end of this year or early next year? Certainly the closing is somewhere down the road, but why wait until a crisis hits before he starts the discussions?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I disagree very fundamentally with the point put forward by the honourable member. I commend to him one of the Toronto Star editions of last week. It has taken a real look at the closing at Pine Ridge. What the parents have to say is very interesting and it is not what the member says.

We have a considerable amount of time in the situation at Durham and we said we would complete the closings at Pine Ridge and at the St. Thomas Adult Rehabilitation and Training Centre. They will both be accomplished very shortly, and then we will begin discussing in depth an individual plan for each individual with each individual parent. Then we will see how the proposals that have been put forward fit into what the individual parents want.

PETITION

SALE OF BEER AND WINE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government and the Legislative Assembly to support the private member's bills of Don Boudria, MPP, to permit the sale of beer and Ontario wine in small, independent grocery stores.

"Pétition adressée au Lieutenant-gouverneur en Conseil et l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

"Nous, soussignés, par la présente pétition demandons l'Assemblée législative et au gouvernement d'appuyer les projets de loi du député Don Boudria qui permettraient aux petites épiceries indépendantes de vendre de la bière et du vin ontarien."

This petition was signed by 155 people, bringing the grand total now to 6,680.

3:20 p.m.

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Kolyn from the standing committee on administration of justice reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the Provincial Secretariat for Justice be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Justice policy program, \$1,506,500.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT

Hon. Ms. Fish moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Dean, first reading of Bill 93, An Act respecting Public Libraries.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any comment by the minister at this point?

Hon. Ms. Fish: My comments were made in the statement.

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I apologize that I could not be here during statements, but could I have the consent of the House to revert to statements at this time?

The Deputy Speaker: The Chairman of Management Board has asked for permission to revert to statements at this time. Is it the pleasure of the House?

Agreed to.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

HONDA AUTOMOBILE PLANT

Hon. Mr. McCague: It is my pleasure to confirm to the House today some important economic news for Ontario. At this hour in Ottawa, my colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) and the federal minister, Ed Lumley, are accompanying the president of the Honda Motor Co. Ltd. of Japan, Mr. Tadashi Kume, in announcing that Honda will establish an automobile production plant in Alliston, Ontario.

Mr. Epp: The minister is late. We knew that on Saturday.

Hon. Mr. McCague: I grant that, but the members could not get it confirmed.

This, the first Japanese vehicle factory anywhere in Canada, will go into production in the late fall of 1987, and by 1989 will be producing

approximately 40,000 vehicles a year for the Canadian market. Excluding land costs, the investment by Honda is estimated at \$100 million, of which \$45 million will be spent on plant construction and \$55 million on machinery and equipment.

When full production is reached, the factory will employ 350 people. In addition, there will be many more indirect jobs created in other parts of the economy, including auto parts manufacturing, construction, equipment supply, transportation services and sales.

Every member of this House will welcome this decision by Honda. It has economic implications not just for the town of Alliston, the township of Tecumseth and the county of Simcoe, but for all Ontarians and all Canadians.

Just last week the Minister of Industry and Trade reported to the Legislature on the progress being made in attracting Japanese investments to this province. He referred specifically to Mitsubishi's purchase of the RCA picture-tube plant in Midland and Tokai Seiki's establishment of a disposable lighter factory in Uxbridge. Honda is the third major Japanese investor in Ontario within the past year and, in some respects, it is the most significant.

As members know, no industry has concerned this government more than that of motor vehicle and auto parts manufacturing. No issue has dominated this industry as much as the success of Japanese vehicle manufacturers in the North American market. During the past 18 months we continually urged Ottawa to initiate action at an international level which will help ensure the future prosperity of our automobile industry.

At the same time, we in the provincial government actively pursued a policy that foreign companies which sell cars here must be encouraged to hire Canadians and produce here. Since last October the Minister of Industry and Trade and Ed Lumley have both been to Japan and met with several vehicle manufacturers, including Honda, to discuss the possibility of their investing in Canada. Clearly, Honda heard the message. It is very pleasing to see the result of federal-provincial co-operation manifested in the company's announcement today.

Ontario will support this project by ensuring that the local infrastructure, such as road access and water and sewage service, will be sufficient for the expanded community's needs.

Honda's decision is a vote of confidence in our province, made for sound business reasons and based on the benefits they expect to receive from manufacturing in Ontario. The Alliston location,

chosen by Honda after it evaluated many possible locations in Ontario, resembles the setting of the company's Marysville, Ohio, plant which it established in 1979 and has since expanded substantially.

Naturally, it is our hope that the steady expansion of Honda facilities which has occurred in Marysville will also occur at the new Alliston plant. We are hopeful, too, that other Japanese vehicle manufacturers will quickly see the benefits that Honda is reaping in Ontario and will choose to make similar investments here.

I thank the members for their indulgence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF REVENUE (concluded)

On vote 901, ministry administration program:

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I do have answers to the items that have been addressed so far. It is up to the members of the opposition how they want them handled. Should I do it now?

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Since we have an hour and 45 minutes left, I think it might expedite business if we stayed on the main vote and let the minister reply now to the leadoffs. Then the other members who want to participate will not get caught in a bind about not being on the right item.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Referring back to last Monday, when we heard from the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) and the member for Rainy River (Mr. T.P. Reid), it is to their remarks I would like to address my comments.

First of all, the member for Oshawa asked how much money it cost us to gather up all that tax money and then to give it all back out again in various rebates, cheques and things of that nature. The staff has done a survey of this. I did not think the question was that serious, but we do have a serious answer for it.

Taxes are collected at a cost of 0.7 cents per dollar. Grants are paid at a cost of 1.4 cents per dollar of direct cost. Assessment operates at one cent per dollar of municipal property tax and grant base established.

Direct cost means only the operating cost for that program as displayed in the printed estimates. Other administrative costs are excluded. When administrative costs are included, taxes are collected for less than one cent per dollar, 0.77 cents. Grants are paid for slightly more than

one per cent, 1.54 cents, and assessment operates at 1.1 cents per dollar of tax base.

I had some questions I was going to address, but they were asked in the question period.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Breaugh: I appreciate the way the minister has presented the material, but the question was rather straightforward. How much money does the ministry spend taking in the money and putting the money back out? Did the minister get an answer to that rather straightforward question?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I do not know how I can make it more straightforward than that.

Mr. Breaugh: How much money did you spend?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am sorry, I do not have those figures. But as a percentage—

Mr. Breaugh: In a week the Ministry of Revenue could not put together those figures?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: We could have those very quickly for the member if that is what he wants.

Mr. Breaugh: That is what I want.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The member wants us to apply this formula against the overall, coming and going.

Mr. Breaugh: Let me try again. I did not think it was this tough a question, frankly. I want to know how much it costs the ministry to gather in the money and to give it back out. How much does it cost to give away money in Ontario? That is straightforward. If the minister can do it this afternoon or if he can do it in a week, it is okay by me; I would just like an answer.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: We shall get an answer for the member. I will sit down right now with a pencil and paper and work it out on the basis of the budget. It works out to about one cent per dollar, so take one hundredth of the budget and that is about it.

Mr. Stokes: On what? A million, a billion or a trillion?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: We will get back to the member with that. I will have my gnomes—

Mr. Breaugh: The minister's crack staff is working on it. Are these the same people who wrote his speech for him the other night?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I will ask my assistants to give me that figure while I go on with the important questions.

Mr. Stokes: The minister did not think the question was very important, just the answer.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is right. Actually, the question loses in importance the further my friend goes with it.

The member for Rainy River wanted some broader information on 25 consultants related to the electronic data processing function in the Ministry of Revenue. Like many other ministries in the past, the Ministry of Revenue has used consulting services to augment its system staff and to provide services and expertise not available in the mix of regular employees.

I have a table here which indicates that the number of professional services contracts has been reduced from a high of 101 in 1981-82 to 25 in 1984-85. The ministry attempts to keep the number of consulting contracts to a minimum at all times; however, work-load increases will result in temporary fluctuations from time to time. In 1980-81, for example, we had 89 professional services contracts; in 1981-82, 101; in 1982-83, 55; in 1983-84, 28, and in 1984-85, an estimated 25.

The member for Rainy River also addressed building security information, including fire and data security, EDP. In the planning and construction of the Oshawa building, a great deal of attention was given to security and fire prevention. The building is equipped with a range of facilities to protect the ministry—a full-time security officer, closed-circuit TV monitoring of exits and entrances, full-time 24-hour security personnel, limited entrance control by access cards and passes, fire alarms and Halon gas systems in computer rooms.

On the basis of these facilities and our experience during one year, we believe the Starr building is one of the most secure in the Ontario government and that the information entrusted to us by taxpayers is completely safe from unauthorized disclosure. This view was confirmed when the building was vetted recently by the Ontario Provincial Police in connection with the 1984-85 budget. The ministry recently conducted a full-scale fire drill to test evacuation procedures; all staff were clear of the building in under 10 minutes, and the Oshawa Fire Department sent a letter of congratulations to the ministry.

The matter of security of data covers both the danger of access by unauthorized personnel and the failure of the systems, and it is a complex one. A ministry committee made up of senior personnel and the ministry security officer reviews data security on an ongoing basis and makes recommendations where appropriate.

The member for Rainy River also addressed the compatibility of computers. He was referring to the IBM 4341 and the DEC 20/40. The IBM 4341 is used solely for the development of new systems and the maintenance of existing systems within the ministry. It was installed by the Ministry of Government Services, is operated by that ministry and is linked to the main computer at Queen's Park. No compatibility problems have occurred in the year we have been operating this machine.

The DEC 20/40 was also installed by MGS in response to a need for more economical operation of the ministry's analytical and financial interactive systems. Because the DEC 20/40 operates solely within the ministry, it is not connected to Queen's Park. However, it is capable of being connected and as such is fully compatible with the data centres operated by MGS.

We have the figure for the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh). The operating expenditure for 1983-84 is \$52.5 million. That is the total cost. Taxes collected under the tax revenue program are \$6,989,000,000. For the guaranteed income and tax credit program, \$10.1 million is the cost on total grants of \$698,600,000.

Mr. Boudria: Is the handwriting that bad?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: No, this is printed. It is a lot easier.

I think that is the information the member wanted. Is there something else I can do?

Mr. Breagh: That will be a start. I would appreciate a copy.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) inquired about incentive funding and replacement of the ministry's financial reporting system. The incentive fund is provided by Management Board, whereby ministries may borrow funds to carry out investment projects that will produce measurable productivity and efficiency benefits. The fund is operated on a business basis and requires ministries to present business cases and feasibility studies to the board. The whole process is subject to considerable scrutiny by the management technology branch of the Management Board secretariat.

The repayment of loans is for a negotiated period at 15 per cent interest. The ministry has made use of this source of funds on two previous occasions, one of which is now almost fully repaid. The replacement of the ministry financial reporting system is a logical step in the ongoing development of good management tools in the ministry. The new system is expected to have a

life of up to 10 years and will provide detailed information to ministry management on the performance of the various programs. The new system is scheduled to go into operation early in 1985-86.

The member also directed a question on Revenews, the cost of Revenews and of the souvenir edition. Does he recall that one?

Mr. T. P. Reid: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: He does. The Ministry of Revenue has some 4,000 employees in the head office and 104 regional district offices. Like many large organizations, the ministry publishes a house organ, Revenews, to provide information to staff, to inform them of ministry events and to give them a sense of community within the organization. The annual budget for Revenews is \$15,000. Usually four editions of about 4,000 copies each are produced at an average cost of \$3,500 per edition.

Because the relocation was an event of considerable importance to the ministry, a souvenir issue was produced. The cost of this edition was \$6,300. The reason for this higher cost was the large number of photographs used. However, to compensate, only two editions were issued in 1983-84. The overall cost in that year was considerably under budget. The letters were genuine attempts by the minister and deputy minister, not to mention the Premier (Mr. Davis), to thank staff for their patience and hard work in making the move the success it was.

Mr. T. P. Reid: How about the Revenue building? Does the minister have the answer to those questions?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Somewhere in here. Is the member talking about the safety of it? I covered that.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. T. P. Reid: No. I am talking about whether the minister has settled with the contractor or whether there is an ongoing situation on the final cost of the building. Also, I believe there were some problems on the fourth or fifth floor or wherever a little while ago that were worrying the employees.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: There was some talk of this. The member did not mention this the other day or bring this question up. I will gladly get some information for him. I do not have any with me. Would the member like information on that?

Mr. T. P. Reid: Just to clarify, Mr. Chairman: At one point I understand the contractor and the ministry were arguing, perhaps through the Ministry of Government Services, but I would

think the minister would be aware of the final cost of the building. Presumably there were some architectural changes and what not. I understood the contractor was not happy with the final payment. I wondered whether that matter had been resolved one way or the other, whether there was an outstanding lawsuit or court case, or whether negotiations were continuing.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Is the name of the builder Tom Jones? Okay. The details from that would have to come from the Ministry of Government Services. We do not have any details on that. They were the contractor. Apparently the dispute might well go to court. That is all the information I have for the member.

Mr. T. P. Reid: It has not been resolved?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Apparently not.

The member for Oshawa touched on some assessment problems in various communities. I can get into the specific problems now if he wishes. He mentioned the problems we were having in Newcastle. The reassessment of the town of Newcastle is just one of the 458 that have been successfully implemented throughout the province since 1978-79. In all reassessments the decision of the municipal council is made only when the council itself is totally satisfied. There is absolutely no pressure put on the council by this or any other ministry.

In Newcastle, assessment personnel presented the full tax impact study to council on November 14, 1983, when the matter was fully discussed. Staff again attended a council meeting on November 28, 1983, when the final resolution to implement the reassessment was passed. Once council has made its decision to implement the reassessment, a full program of public information is undertaken, consisting of newspaper advertisements, explanatory information inserts and public open houses. At the Newcastle open houses, which went on for eight hours a day for more than four days in January, 537 ratepayers attended. This represents less than five per cent of the total number of properties in the town.

The example cited by the member for Oshawa of a taxpayer who has experienced a tax increase of \$2,000 is based on the taxpayer's misinterpretation of his assessment notice as a tax bill. Unfortunately, this was reported erroneously to the Oshawa Times. Over three years mill rates have risen, but the assessment of this taxpayer actually dropped by five per cent under the reassessment. The large, new house he has built was first assessed in March 1984, but even with this, the total tax bill in 1984 will be only \$2,700.

The two per cent adjustments have been referred to as affecting the market value and being an underhand way of increasing municipal revenues. This is incorrect. To protect the cost and value of the municipal tax base and avoid mill rate increases solely as a result of reassessment, each class ratio is adjusted by two per cent.

The member for Oshawa suggests a question often posed is, "How come it happened in Newcastle and not in the other end of the region of Durham?" The town of Pickering was also reassessed under the program for the 1984 tax year and nobody is complaining. Three other municipalities in the region of Durham have asked for an update of their reassessment for the 1985 taxation year.

Mr. Martel: The minister should come to Sudbury.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Come to Sudbury?

Mr. Martel: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Is that an invitation?

Mr. Martel: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Okay.

Mr. Martel: I will take the minister to the outlying areas.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The honourable member wants an update.

Mr. Martel: The minister will get an update.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The studies presented to council in preparation for reassessment clearly identified that in total, 56 per cent of the assessable units in the town would experience a tax increase, but in more than half of them the increase in tax was less than \$50. This statistic was expanded on in a summary report given to council that showed the number of increases and decreases in taxation to be expected by class in each ward. The computer-generated impact study shows the actual range of tax changes anticipated in considerable detail, including the number of units affected at each level of increase or decrease.

The section 63 program is founded on the firm principle of municipal autonomy. It is totally inappropriate that the Minister of Revenue should be able to overrule the decision of a duly elected municipal council voting on a reassessment after being presented with all the relevant facts.

After the reassessment, there are 810 properties under appeal on the basis of new valuation in Newcastle. It is ironic that as a result of the smokescreen of confusion created in Newcastle, approximately 20 per cent are appeals against

assessments that have been reduced under the reassessment.

Since its inception, the section 63 program has been founded on a redistribution of assessments within defined classes, the very formula used to prepare the class ratios and ensure the municipal tax base remains constant. While only five or six per cent of the audience at a public meeting may have had reduced assessments, more than 43 per cent of the 5,970 units that had reduced assessments would have had tax reductions of more than \$50 based on 1983 mill rates.

Assessment must function independently of ownership. All homes must be equitably valued. Seniors are protected by the Ontario tax grant for seniors, which pays up to \$500 of their property taxes.

We had heard of a few problems in Niagara Falls. As in Newcastle, the council of the city of Niagara Falls had a number of opportunities to review the detailed impact of the reassessment by class, ward, number of units and range of tax increase and decrease. Assessment staff appeared before city council or its finance committee on four different occasions before the resolution to implement the reassessment was adopted. The summary report presented to council clearly showed that 81 per cent of the units in the industrial sector would experience an increase in taxes under the reassessment.

The member for Oshawa suggested there was something dramatically wrong with the system. This is absolutely correct and provides a total justification for the implementation of reassessment. In the industrial sector of Niagara Falls, large, older buildings have become obsolete and have suffered a reduction in their value; their previous assessments had not reflected this fact.

We have heard and seen quite a bit in the newspapers about a certain amusement park in the Niagara Falls area. Of course, the assessment on that property has been appealed and is before the courts.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Breagh: May I interject for a moment? I thought I heard the minister say the council in Niagara Falls was told that 81 per cent of its commercial assessment would get increased. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I do not know whether the council was told that specifically. Let us see here. The report that was presented to council did show that 81 per cent of the units in the industrial sector would experience an increase in taxes under the reassessment.

Mr. Breagh: So the council knew that before accepting the reassessment?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Yes.

Another point the member for Oshawa raised was assessment in Metropolitan Toronto. In late 1982, the city of Toronto presented the ministry with a series of proposals that dealt with issues surrounding a possible reassessment of Metropolitan Toronto. The minister of the day advised the municipalities in Metro that the assessment and taxation issues would be considered with the tax impact study when they had reviewed the city of Toronto proposals and could approach the government with a consolidated position. To date, this has not happened.

While the basic thrust of the study is still valid, there have been some changes in the assessment base in Metro since the study was prepared. It is important to recognize that tax impact studies are not computer models. They represent, subject only to final verification, the impact of the actual values that will be used to generate the new assessment if the municipality chooses to implement the reassessment. There is no simulation involved, just the assessor's professional estimate of market value, supported by the calculation facility of the computer.

Mr. Breagh: I would like to interject for a brief moment. I am very much interested in determining what happened to that model. I know one was prepared. I know certain Metro politicians allegedly have seen the copies. It is alleged that certain media people also have access to them, but they have never been presented for public discussion, to my knowledge.

I have pursued this for little better than a year now. I attempted to get a copy to see what the net effect of that study would have been. I am told copies are not available, and I certainly have been unable to get one. Would the minister be prepared to table a copy and let us have a look at it? We are interested in what the impact would be.

However flawed the system might be, I would be quite happy to have the minister put a little proviso on the cover that would point out areas where it would be flawed. It is a matter of great interest to many of us and we are unable to see the document. Would the minister be prepared to table that document and put on its cover whatever proviso he cares to pointing out areas where the information might be somewhat inaccurate?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: As the member well knows, when I became Minister of Revenue in July 1983, I was made aware of this problem in

Toronto. I wanted to convince myself of the feasibility of this program and to make myself totally familiar with it. The viewpoint I have had from various parts of Metropolitan Toronto was that there is no consensus whatsoever. With that in mind and the fact that the study is in itself somewhat outdated at present, I see nothing to be gained from tabling that study.

If the time comes in the future when the municipalities of Metropolitan Toronto—or primarily the city of Toronto, which seems to be the most difficult in regard to this matter—decide among themselves to come to a common position and wish to proceed with this sort of thing, we will undoubtedly need to do a completely new study. I see nothing to be gained from tabling an old study that will not be used under any circumstances.

Mr. Breagh: I do not want to belabour the point, but I do want to point out that the minister is asking us to take a look at something like market value assessment, which is very complicated. In theory, some of us have admitted there are problems with assessment. The minister cannot ask us to support or not support, in an intelligent way, a program such as this when he is unprepared to provide us with the information he has.

If the minister wants me to take a look at market value assessment and perhaps change my personal position on it, which I would be prepared to do, I need to be convinced that what the ministry is preparing, the models it is using and the examples it is projecting, have something in them.

The minister has said he is not going to use this document; he has said there are some flaws in it. I am perfectly prepared to accept him at face value. I am encouraging him to point out where there are inaccuracies and flaws. But it is a study of some substance. It would be useful for us to have it as a document to base future projections on.

It totally escapes me why he is afraid to table that information, especially since he has said flat out this afternoon that he is not going to use it. It would be a valid reference document to get a rough idea of what the impacts might be. I fail to understand why he has such fear in his mind, or why he is afraid to put that document on the table and let us have a look at it.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I can assure the member that I have no fears whatsoever. In answering his question where he said I am asking him to adopt the philosophy of market value assessment, I am not asking him to do that

as it pertains to Toronto at this juncture. What we are dealing with is the areas where section 63 has been implemented.

Yes, I am asking him to adopt that philosophy as it applies to Newcastle, Niagara Falls and Waterloo—the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) is totally in support of market value assessment, as he has said from time to time—but in each of those cases we are dealing with the section 63 study as it pertains to that area.

I am not asking the member to adopt the Newcastle situation on the basis of a market value study of Toronto. What I am saying is that Newcastle has worked. The member has had the impact study. He has seen it. I know the member particularly has seen it.

Under the circumstances in Metropolitan Toronto, there are two reasons why we have not been imposing or putting section 63 on regional governments; and I view Metro Toronto as a regional government. It requires a certain amount of co-operation among the municipalities, the cities and boroughs of Metro Toronto. Until such time as that comes about, there is very little point in studying a study that is redundant. If the time comes when market value assessment is brought into Metropolitan Toronto, it would probably not be based on the impact study that has taken place; it would require a new one.

Mr. Breagh: I want to point out to the minister that his paranoia about this study is going to lead to further complications. I think the minister admitted spending roughly \$3 million to put this study together. Now he is afraid to let the study hit the light of day anywhere at any time.

I put it to the minister that I am not about to support market value assessment anywhere in Ontario until such time he has the intestinal fortitude to put documents like that on the table and let us have a look at them to see whether they are accurate or inaccurate, or exactly what the trends might be.

I fail to understand his paranoia, particularly in view of the fact that he has admitted he is going to run and hide from the document itself. How in the world can he justify spending what he admitted as \$3 million, but in actual fact would be closer to \$5 million or \$6 million, to put this study together? Is he admitting it is so lousy that he cannot even trot the thing out now even though he has abandoned it?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I think the member is telling me he will only make a decision on market value as it applies to Niagara Falls on the basis of

having seen the study of Metropolitan Toronto. I fail to understand his logic there.

Mr. Breagh: The minister does not have the ability to put words in my mouth. He should not try to do so.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Well, my friend is putting words in my mouth, or attempting to. Nothing that has been said about Niagara Falls has any bearing on the Metro study.

Mr. Breagh: I am not talking about Niagara Falls but about Newcastle.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Since I became Minister of Revenue, the member has not heard me suggest at any time that I would be imposing section 63 on Metropolitan Toronto. If he says he has, I ask him to tell me where I am quoted as having said that. I have never said that.

Mr. Breagh: I have not heard the minister proposing section 63 in the Bahamas either, for that matter.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is right, and I do not intend to. However, I would not mind taking part in the study there.

Mr. Breagh: The minister would not table that document either.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is right; I might not table that one either.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That might well be; I do not know. The member would have his own opinions on why the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe) was not there. He was promoted. I hope I will be too, if I do a good job, to a position the member will hardly ever hope to get in my lifetime.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Terry Russell will get rid of the minister too; won't you, Terry?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is right. I think I would just as soon sit down now, Mr. Chairman, and let—

Mr. Breagh: It will be a pleasure to see him do so.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: We can have some more questions. I am anxious to hear from the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes).

Mr. Chairman: The member for Rainy River.

4 p.m.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Are we on vote 1 now?

Mr. Chairman: That sounds fine.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I know there are others. My colleague wants to talk about assessment and my

friend the member for Lake Nipigon has something. I have just three quick questions:

First, how does the minister explain the percentage change in administration costs being eight per cent over last year in vote 1?

Second, from the answers the minister was kind enough to give me, I thought there seemed to be a lot of vehicle use by his ministry. I wonder if he could tell us why there is so much use. Is that for the field officers in the various regional assessment offices?

Finally, I presume the legal services that have not been tendered are all under \$15,000 or are technical services. They are exempt under Manual of Administration special directive 50-8-5, but what sort of legal services are they providing? Are these for appeals to assessments, appeals on retail sales tax or what exactly are they? The minister tells me there is a fairly lengthy list of lawyers and I notice most of them are the same lawyers year after year. I wonder what services they are providing to the ministry and how they are chosen.

There is just one other question the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) has asked me to put. It is a letter that went to the minister on May 25, 1984, from Mrs. Hermie McPhail of Action-matic Ltd. of Chatham and concerned a problem shared by operators of coin-operated machines. I gather it is with respect to the retail sales taxes on items of 25 cents. The machines are not set up to allow collection of the extra two cents or whatever the retail sales tax is. I gather this could lead to the Ontario industry and some employees being laid off, partly because of this increase in the retail sales tax.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might ask the indulgence of the members opposite. Could I move down to the front row and have my staff come out? Would members agree to that?

Mr. Martel: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Accept the precedent. It will be okay.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Come on, let's go.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Someone over there is saying no; I just wonder who is the boss.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, I suggest you take note of this and supply a copy to the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the government House leader (Mr. Wells). We had it out in the House last week that we were not going to tolerate this unless the government was prepared to tell the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) he has to accord the same opportunity in the committee.

I know what the rule book says, but I suggest to the Chairman he should advise the government House leader that rather than making an issue out of it at the present time, we are giving him one last chance to put some common sense into that minister's head. We make this accommodation so ministers can answer questions put to them in the Legislature. The reason we changed the rules was to facilitate the minister; in committee, it should be to facilitate the member. That two-way street is not happening.

I draw to your attention that we do it today, but I ask you as Chairman to direct something to the government House leader to the effect that we have once again accommodated a minister. We would hope the government would have the integrity to do the same thing for the opposition members when they ask for someone to be brought forward in a committee considering the same sort of estimates.

Mr. Chairman: We have permitted the member to make his comments and I thank him for them. Before the committee proceeds, I would like to share with all members of the House on this topic that it is my understanding—

An hon. member: We cannot hear you.

Mr. Chairman: I am simply sharing with the members on this topic that it is my understanding that the practice of ministers coming to the front benches and having staff with them was initiated back in the 1950s.

Mr. Martel: No.

Mr. Chairman: Just a moment; I listened to the member. May I tell you what I understand? It was done to facilitate the work of the House, not just the ministers. We had the very same minister before us last week and we found it speeded up the time if he had staff handy, rather than shuffling papers back and forth. I think we are all served by that.

When they rewrote the standing orders, subsection 8(b) embodied what had been years of custom in the House. This is clearly my understanding of it.

Mr. Martel: I suggest to you that rule was put in after 1975.

Mr. Chairman: I am not disagreeing with the member on that.

Mr. Martel: No one was allowed on the floor of the Legislature until about 1975 or 1976. The ministers sat over there by themselves.

Mr. Chairman: The former Speaker is with us and I am sure he can help us if we are wrong. That embodied in the rules of order what had become an accepted practice. In any event, all

comments have been expressed. We know what subsection 8(b) says and it permits up to three staff. Can we get on with the estimates? The minister is ready to go.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I am at the mercy of the members. I will go whichever way they want. The House leader of the New Democratic Party has requested I convey a message, which I will be glad to do. However, I really do not think I should be asked to answer for what the Minister of Natural Resources chooses to do. That is his problem. I intend to fight my own problems.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am trying to. Is the member coming out?

Mr. Chairman: Time is running out.

Mr. Martel: It is a two-way street; that is all we are saying. We know when it came into the standing orders. We know why it came in, too, and part of the quid pro quo was that we could have cabinet people outside.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I forget what the question was.

In regard to the coin machines mentioned by the member for Rainy River, we are aware of the problem and it is being studied by Treasury at the present time. That is really all we can tell him at this point.

Mr. T. P. Reid: What about the other questions I raised, such as the question about the increase in the administrative costs which was over eight per cent this year? What are all these cars being used for? What services are the legal firms providing?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Regarding the cars, there are 142 owned cars and 49 rented cars, for a total of 191. They are primarily assessment vehicles for assessors to get around to different properties. What was the other question regarding legal firms?

Mr. T. P. Reid: Administrative costs and legal services.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The legal services are primarily to fight assessment appeals. Most of the legal advice would come from the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Have we been using the same lawyers for years to fight the appeals? Is that because of experience? Do we tender them or what?

The lawyers are appointed by region. The same ones tend to be appointed because of the experience they have in defending the assessment cases.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: I want to refresh the minister's memory about the saga that is developing over the heavy-handedness of the retail tax branch of the Ministry of Revenue.

Given the high profile that problems with the Department of National Revenue in Ottawa have received and given the actions of the Tory task force looking into injustices to and harassment of taxpayers by National Revenue, I want to raise the problem of Sinclair Stores in Geraldton with the minister.

In fairness to the minister, in the short time he has been in this ministry I have found him very co-operative and very efficient in providing answers to me, but I am wondering if the incident I am about to relate to the minister is typical of the kind of treatment of those who find themselves delinquent in remitting the retail sales tax to his ministry.

Mr. Sinclair wrote to the minister and sent a copy of the letter to me. I sent my letter to the minister and the minister responded on May 18, 1984. As far as the minister was concerned, he felt the case was closed and no further action needed to be taken. I am not going to bore the committee with all the letters and details in my file, but Mr. Sinclair, Sr., and Mr. Sinclair, Jr., do not think this matter is closed. It has received a lot of publicity in the local media, and there is a good deal of sympathy for the position taken by Sinclair Motors—Sinclair Stores; it used to be Sinclair Motors.

It is not a case of Sinclair Stores denying it owed the money. There was a temporary problem with cash flow, but I think there was also a lack of communication, perhaps on the part of Mr. Sinclair. A good deal was a result of actions taken by the retail sales tax people in Thunder Bay. I want to read what Mr. Sinclair says to the minister on May 22, 1984.

"Thank you for your letter of May 18, 1984. There never was a question of our being lax filing returns or owing the interest in penalties on unremitted tax. There was never any question that we were legally obligated to pay the amount. The issue at hand is the means employed to collect said amount and the unnecessary expenses incurred therein.

"Since writing to you, I have discovered that the Thunder Bay office has sent the sheriff to the Bank of Nova Scotia in Beardmore"—50 miles away from Geraldton—"to seize a bank account with \$22.04 in it from an account that is almost never used. This collection cost my father \$108.56. Imagine, \$108 to collect \$22. I am

certain the tax office knew the amount before collecting it. It hadn't changed for at least four weeks.

"A week or so later, they seized my father's trailer and pulled it 180 miles to Thunder Bay at a cost in excess of \$585. If this is deemed fair and equitable treatment under the laws of Ontario, then I suggest we might as well live in a dictatorship. I further suggest that the vindictive treatment and expense my father was subjected to in this instance was totally unnecessary. No notification was given in either instance. Is it your policy to seize bank accounts and personal assets with no notice before or after the fact? The procedure should have been to seize the assets of Sinclair Stores, which were all free and clear, before seizing any personal assets.

"This sneaking around behind everyone's backs, planning trailer seizures and emptying bank accounts without notification is nothing short of criminal, without justification and is indicative of a police state.

"I could understand looking to personal assets if the business has none, but all of the assets of Sinclair Stores were unattached. If business assets do not legally have to be considered first, then I suggest that a change is definitely required in the legislation somewhere. The more I discover about the office's sales tax collection activities, the more I become aware of the obvious misuse of power accorded to your ministry. The following is a summary of what occurred as a result of our being late in filing the return:

"1. A letter was sent from Sinclair Stores to the Thunder Bay tax office with a cheque for \$600 asking if payment could be made on the outstanding amount.

"2. Without any notification to us, the sheriff was sent from Thunder Bay to Beardmore, 120 miles away, to collect \$22.04, at a cost of \$108.56. Investigations were apparently made as to the type, location and value of my father's trailer. Without any notification to us, the sheriff was sent from Thunder Bay to seize the 31-foot trailer and pull it 180 miles back to Thunder Bay. A lien could have been put on it or it could have been stored in Geraldton. When Mr. McLeod was told a certified cheque could be at his office in the morning, he said there was nothing he could do, the trailer had to go to Thunder Bay.

"This is far from being a dead issue, honourable sir. I am cognizant that you cannot be aware of all the occurrences in your ministry, but I do feel there definitely were injustices perpetrated

under the pretext of legality and, as the minister, you are the one who is ultimately responsible.

"I have been contacted by all of the news media—radio, television and newspaper in Thunder Bay, one station in Toronto—and members of two other political parties. I have refrained from commenting on more than what was stated in Mr. Stokes's letter until I have heard from your office. If the stand your ministry is taking is that everyone is normal and above board in this instance, then I shall have no alternative but to publicize this case of government heavy-handedness to the utmost of my capabilities.

"If necessary, Mr. Minister, I am prepared to sue the ministry, the government of Ontario and everyone else involved to recover these unnecessary expenses incurred by my father. It is impossible for us to be any more publicly embarrassed than we already have been. I have already spoken to lawyers in Thunder Bay who are more than anxious to proceed. They indicated all the publicity in such a case would be great advertising for them.

"I sincerely hope this situation can be resolved amicably with as little bad press as possible. However, if no solution is available through your office, then I shall have to proceed with whatever avenues are available to me, no matter how damaging they may be.

"In closing I would like to inform you that as of the end of the month, we will have ceased business operations in Geraldton. While the abominable treatment accorded my father by your Thunder Bay office is not the only reason for the closing, it definitely was the deciding factor.

"The conclusion of this unfortunate matter, whatever it is to be, honourable sir, is in your hands."

I received a letter today from his father. I am not going to go over what the father said because he covers essentially the same ground, but I want to indicate the specific and detailed costs incurred by Mr. Sinclair, Sr., and Mr. Sinclair, Jr.

The costs were: bank seizure fee for the sheriff, \$26; trailer seizure fee, \$26; sheriff's officer, \$50; travel to Beardmore, 192 kilometres at 43 cents a kilometre—if members of the Legislature got that for travel it would be good—\$82.56; travel to Geraldton, 282 kilometres at 43 cents a kilometre, \$121.26; towing the trailer 180 miles from Geraldton to Thunder Bay, \$388, for a total of \$693.82.

4:20 p.m.

That is all the detail I am going to give the minister on it, because I am sure when it is brought to his attention, he has all those details in his files. Obviously, there was a breakdown in communications; perhaps Mr. Sinclair was not aware. But certainly the heavy-handedness of the ministry's sales tax people in Thunder Bay in instructing the sheriff as to what action he was to take put these people to undue expense.

Why can the minister not say there were errors on both sides and this is not the way his retail sales tax people act in the normal course of events? Because it was a breakdown in communications, because an Easter weekend was involved and because he has since paid it back, to the best of my knowledge, why does the minister not say, "No, this is not the way we do business"?

They are the minister's agents; they go to considerable time and expense collecting money on his behalf. I might add that, in many instances, if they have money due on the account, they have to remit the retail sales tax to the ministry even though they may not have collected the account itself. Because of the very fact that it is on their books, they are acting as ministry bankers until their accounts receivable come in.

This is a senior citizen who has made a significant contribution to the social and economic fabric of a town such as Geraldton and his son was trying to assist him. They had eight full-time employees, I believe. For this and other reasons, they find they can no longer stay in operation. Why can the minister not take his licks and refund to them the out-of-pocket expenses for the heavy-handedness of his retail sales tax people in Thunder Bay in instructing the sheriff to take the action he has taken? Will he do that?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I know it is very popular today to try to draw a parallel between this ministry and Revenue Canada, as my friend unintentionally did.

Mr. Stokes: I tried to make that distinction.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: He was drawing a parallel—

Mr. Stokes: No. Go back to the record. I said my experience with this minister and this ministry has been different from what happens in Ottawa. I said this just may be. I think this is an aberration; I do not think this is the way the minister generally does business.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: No matter how we slice it, what the member has just said is drawing a parallel. I can assure him that is not the case. I do not think I have to illustrate the difference

between the procedure of this ministry and that of Revenue Canada; it becomes obvious every day.

With respect to the case we are talking about of Mr. Sinclair, I know that when we get these letters—I have had every letter the member has had and I have read them—if one gets the history, but does not necessarily get copies of my answers and does not know the full story, it sounds as if yes, the man has been persecuted. That is not the case. The fact is that the man—

Mr. Stokes: He thinks so and I think so.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I would like to attempt to answer the member's question. We can hear these horror stories and we can swallow them hook, line and sinker. The fact is that this is not one of them.

There has been a long history with this man. I think we have to approach this by first realizing that when we are talking about retail sales tax, we are not talking about money that is negotiable, money that can be used to improve the lot of one's firm. We are talking about trust funds given to that business by the person who is buying something knowing full well that those funds should be transferred to the government. That is where they are intended to go. Nobody pays tax willingly or loves doing it. But at least if one does pay retail sales tax, one likes to have the feeling that those funds are going where they are supposed to be going.

This was not the case in this instance. This vendor has been consistently late in filing his returns and in remitting tax collections. In other words, he has been using those funds for purposes other than what they were designed for. He has been using trust funds, presumably to help his business or to float his business or his liquid capital or what have you. I guess one might say he put it into the bank, saved it and just did not want to submit it. Perhaps that is the other way to look at it, but I do not think that happened. The fact is they are trust funds and should have been submitted. As I have said, he has been consistently late in filing returns. They were contacted on numerous occasions in 1983 about that matter.

No matter how gentle one hopes to be as Minister of Revenue or as a tax collector, there comes a point when action has to be taken, and that is precisely what happened. A registered letter was sent to the vendor on January 10, 1984, that said assets and chattels would be seized or other legal action taken if the most recent outstanding returns were not filed. The letter was received and signed for by W. E. Sinclair. There

is no question they got it, but no action was taken.

The member mentioned the bank account with only \$22.04. That is quite true, but how would we know that when we seized the bank account? When a bank account is seized, one hopes some of the taxes are in the bank. That is why I said that was doubtful. There was only \$22.04 there. Two steps: they have not been reporting or submitting taxes and they refuse to negotiate. Where does one go next?

Mr. Stokes: To the store.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: To the store. The member is suggesting we should be seizing the assets and closing the business. He sees that as a more equitable way of doing it.

Mr. Stokes: That is what the Sinclairs think the minister should have done.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Do they think we should have closed their business?

Mr. Stokes: No. What they are saying is, why did the ministry not go directly to the store and say, "All right. We are not prepared to go out on a limb for you any more"? Why did the ministry go behind their backs and seize a bank account 50 miles away with \$22.04 in it? The minister must know where Hardrock is? It is outside the confines of Geraldton.

They went to the store and said, "We want to know where the Sinclairs live." They snuck in behind—I guess it was the sheriff or the sheriff's officer—and they said, "Is this Mr. Sinclair's property?" When they were assured it was, they took a look at the 31-foot trailer, hooked it on to a half-ton truck and took it 180 miles to Thunder Bay. Why did the ministry not go to the store and say: "This is the end of the road, Mr. Sinclair. We are going to take what you owe us." Why did they not go to the store?

One does not have to be really bright to understand that if I owe the minister something, he does not go to see if I have an interest in property in Toronto or if I have something he can haul away from my backyard in the darkness of night. He comes to me and says: "Stokes, this is the end of the road. What do you have here that we can attach so we can recover those trust funds?" That was not done. They even enlisted the aid of neighbours of Mr. Sinclair to say: "Is that where he lives? Do you know that to be his trailer?" They said, "Yes, but why are you doing this?" The reply was, "We do not have to answer any questions."

When Mr. Sinclair found out the truck was there, he said: "We already have a cheque in the

bank. As soon as the bank opens, we can give you a certified cheque for the outstanding amount." They said, "That is all too late." That is not the way to treat agents of oneself.

Why did the ministry not go to the store rather than sneak around when nobody was looking and haul a trailer 180 miles to Thunder Bay? There are any number of places where the ministry could have stored it in safekeeping in Geraldton rather than charging him something in the order of \$385 for towing charges. He had to go up there, recover it and bring it back himself. If the ministry does not want to be seen as being in the same boat as those rascals in Ottawa, and if the ministry is saying it acted in a normal, everyday business approach to the collection of retail sales tax, by gosh, maybe it is worse than I think it is.

4:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am sure the member realizes the decision to take a trailer in the first place would not be the decision of this ministry, but of the sheriff. Our function is to—

Mr. Breaugh: Oh, come on.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Whether the member wants to believe that or say "Oh, come on," that is a fact. I personally think it would be a far better decision to do that than to attach the man's business and put him totally out of business, which we had no intention of doing.

The member for Lake Nipigon talks about the great intentions of the fellow, but he still has not filed returns for February, March and April. He still owes \$1,402.06 in taxes. The member tells me about these great intentions and the man wanting to do everything right, but he is not taking any steps whatsoever.

Mr. Stokes: He owed more than \$3,200 or \$3,300. He is making an honest effort.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: If he is making an honest effort, why has he not filed his returns for February, March and April? That is a necessary step, too, is it not?

Mr. Stokes: I guess he does not like the heavy-handed way he was treated.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: We treat armed robbers a little roughly, too, but that does not give them the excuse to point a gun at us.

Mr. Stokes: Is the minister saying that legitimate businessmen in Geraldton, in my constituency, are crooks?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: No.

Mr. Stokes: Is that what he wants me to take back to them? They had a cash flow problem. Has the minister never had a cash flow problem

in his own life? I know I have. All we are asking for is a little bit of understanding and a little bit of compassion. Either his ministry, as a matter of course, or the sheriff does not know what the hell compassion is.

We have had two car dealerships go out of business completely in Geraldton. The minister does not know what the situation has been like. We had a General Motors dealer who went out of business and a Ford dealer who went out of business. Does the minister know we do not have a car dealership between Hearst and Nipigon along Highway 11? That is a fact. Residents of Longlac, Geraldton, Nakina or Beardmore cannot buy a car locally. They either go west on Highway 11 to Nipigon or east on Highway 11 to Hearst. That is the situation.

The Sinclairs used to have a GM dealership. Bob Meyers, who is a good friend of the minister politically, had a Ford dealership right across the street. They are both out of business through no fault of their own, because of the recession. This was the problem facing the Sinclairs. The minister says he wants to keep people in business, but the attitude that has been taken by his ministry in the collection of retail sales tax does not keep them in business.

Mr. Sinclair admits he owes the money and he admits he has to pay penalties, but the minister does not help. If someone is the friend of businessmen, big or small, he does not hit them over the head when they are down, as the minister and the sheriff have done. If the minister wants to leave the impression that he feels he is snow white and squeaky clean in this whole thing, if he wants me to take that back to all the businessmen in the north, then let him say so. That is not my impression of the way this minister and his ministry operate.

I think some mistakes were made and I hope the minister will admit that. I am not asking him to eat crow. Let him go up there and see the situation. They had a temporary cash flow problem, which they admit. They have been paying it back and they will pay it back, but the minister does not help them by putting them to another \$600 expense because the sheriff has to be paid and the towing company has to be paid. There is only so much money and the minister is going to have to wait that much longer for his. I do not think he should treat businessmen or agents in this fashion.

There was never any doubt they owed the money and will pay the money. They are subject to penalties and will pay the penalties, but the heavy-handedness of the sheriff, the sheriff's

officer and whoever instructed them to take the action they have, is not acceptable to me and I hope it is not acceptable to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I fully recognize there is no possible way I am going to convince the member of anything on this matter. He is putting words in my mouth and saying I am calling people crooks. I am not suggesting that.

Mr. Stokes: The minister made the comparison. It is on the record.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I drew a comparison because it was a silly point the member was trying to make.

I am not saying the man is dishonest. I am saying he is an very poor businessman. The member is trying to point out as a great businessman a man who, despite all this, has still not filed his returns. It has been a continuous thing. To my knowledge and to the knowledge of my staff, he has made no arrangements as far as repayment is concerned. His attitude seems to be, "I will pay you a little bit when I can." That is awfully nice. He still has not filed for three months in a row. He has not filed for February, March or April. This does not sound to me like someone who is legitimately trying.

Mr. Kerrio: He is deficit budgeting.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Yes, deficit budgeting. That is right.

The member asked me a personal question: Would I behave that way? If I were the guy sent up there to collect, I probably would not drive his trailer away, but that was not my choice to make. That was a choice made by a sheriff. That is what the sheriff chose to do.

I guess the member is asking if we as a ministry are going to reimburse this man for costs that were self-imposed, and I have to tell him no.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, I want to raise with the minister a local issue which concerns many of the people in the Ottawa Valley and in Prescott-Russell. It has to do with the retail sales tax.

A lot of the competition in our area is really not Ontario competition but competition from Quebec, right across the border. In Hawkesbury, one is separated from Quebec by the Perley bridge that links Hawkesbury to Grenville. If one is in St. Eugène, there is just an imaginary line that crosses into Quebec, the west island area of Montreal. If one is in Ottawa, Hull is right across the river. I am sure the minister is familiar with the local geography and the fact that much of the business competition is often across the river or across that provincial boundary.

The people of Cornwall have a similar experience with American jurisdictions. However, there is a certain barrier known as customs when people do business across the line. We do not have that barrier with Quebec, of course, and I do not advocate we ever do.

There is a problem, however, in that Quebec has no sales tax on furniture and large-ticket items such as that. I understand there is also no sales tax on certain clothing items. Many of our businesses in Hawkesbury and Ottawa are suffering greatly because Ontario residents just go across the bridge to Quebec to buy a bedroom suite or to completely furnish their homes. They pay no sales tax there at all because there is no sales tax on furniture in Quebec.

The minister will probably say this existed before Quebec eliminated the sales tax on these things. People would often get away with it in Quebec by saying they were from out of province. Then they would just carry it across the Ontario border, sometimes using a fictitious address in order not to get caught if ever inspectors followed up on it. That sometimes would happen in the past. However, sometimes they gave the right address and the officials would end up finding them later and getting them to pay the proper amount of sales tax.

However, now that there is no sales tax at all on those items in Quebec, Ontario businesses are losing out on that type of business and there is absolutely nothing they can do to get it back. No matter what they do, they are seven per cent higher than the store across the river. There are only 500 feet or 1,000 feet between the two stores. They presumably pay property taxes and have other similar costs. They buy their merchandise from the same large distributors in Montreal or the eastern townships where furniture is manufactured. It is hauled the same distance or close to it, but the retail price is seven per cent more in Ontario. So it is understandable that a lot of business is lost to the Quebec side.

The minister is probably wondering how I want him to fix that problem. I could mention a parallel situation that existed in Quebec a couple of years ago. He will probably recall that at one point Quebec raised the gasoline tax considerably to pay for past government largess in a variety of ways. They had doled out such large amounts that they found themselves in a serious financial bind and they raised the sales tax on gasoline.

4:40 p.m.

A few months after they raised that tax, all the stations close to the Ontario-Quebec border

protested to the National Assembly of Quebec. The government of Quebec did the following: It established zones. From zero to five kilometres from the border, it reduced the surtax it had applied by 33 per cent; from six to 10 kilometres, the reduction was 22.36 per cent; from 11 to 15 kilometres, there was a reduction of 12.24 per cent; and from 16 to 20 kilometres, there was a reduction of 1.27 per cent. At 21 kilometres from the Ontario-Quebec border, the tax's full rate applies in that province.

Gasoline in Quebec, right across the border from Hawkesbury, is almost exactly the same price as it is in Hawkesbury. If it is not, it is not worth while crossing the bridge to buy it on the Ontario side. It is not practical for the small saving there would be.

I am wondering whether the minister has ever thought about some of our local businesses who have been forced to contend with that very strong competition. It is a constant seven per cent competition elsewhere. Has the minister ever contemplated establishing a similar sales tax reduction zone near that border?

I recognize he may not have an answer for that right away, because it is a very complicated issue with repercussions galore. What is everybody else who lives beyond that zone going to ask for once we give it to them? He will have to contemplate all that good stuff.

There is a precedent elsewhere where other jurisdictions have sought to aid their businesses near borders that had a favourable tax rate to theirs. Quebec's tax on gasoline was completely out of sync with Ontario's tax; so it sought to give its merchants near the border a reduction. The result is that merchants have almost totally recovered all their lost business.

I can assure the minister that when the tax was established two years ago in Quebec, one could not find a car near a gas station in Hull, Grenville or any other Quebec border community. Now they have all that business back.

If the minister ever has the opportunity of coming to my constituency—not to make a political speech but to look into this problem—I invite him to visit the merchants in Hawkesbury, whether he goes into Assaly Furniture or any of the other furniture stores in the area, and ask them how big a problem this is.

He should take his limousine across the bridge into Quebec to visit some of the furniture stores on the Quebec side. He will see these small towns with big furniture stores doing all kinds of business from the Ontario side. This situation has existed for a number of years. It is not something

the government of Quebec did three weeks ago and is only temporary for one year. Perhaps the minister's officials would know better than I, but this situation has existed for a number of years. Our stores are really in difficulty.

I invite the minister to respond to that. If he cannot respond to it right away, I invite him at least to give it some thought. I think it would assist our merchants greatly, not only in my constituency but in Ottawa and other communities as well.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member for his comments. I do sympathize with what he is saying. We are aware of this problem. I cannot state unequivocally that it has never been addressed in the ministry. We would be interested in any method that could solve this problem. I do not think we would be too interested in a zoned approach, the way it is done in Quebec. I do not believe we would see that as a solution to the problem.

The member mentioned the furniture business as the one that benefits from this in Quebec. I would suggest it might be reciprocal to the benefit of Ontario in that many people from Quebec would come to Ontario to buy other products that are taxed at seven per cent as opposed to nine per cent in Quebec. If we talk in terms of an automobile, for example—

Mr. Boudria: That is ridiculous. The minister knows sales tax is paid on automobiles when the plates are bought. You do not pay the tax when you buy the car; you pay when you buy the plates.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: It is paid to the dealer when a new car is bought.

Mr. Boudria: I am sure the minister's officials will inform him that when an Ontario dealer sells a car in Quebec, the person buying it pays the Quebec sales tax and vice versa. I have bought cars in Quebec in the past and still paid the Ontario sales tax; so that is not quite the way it works.

In the past, if there was no reciprocal arrangement with the dealer, I had to buy my plates in Ottawa, drive to the dealer with the plates and put them on my car over there. I also had to take along a copy of the invoice. The sales tax on automobiles is paid in the province where the purchaser lives. That is actually the only item where that would not work.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I always hesitate to argue with my friend, but he has bought nothing but used cars. If he bought a new car, he would pay it at the dealer because he is an authorized

collector. If he bought a used car, he would pay at the licence issuing office because a person selling a used car is not a collector.

I think the member will find, as I think those about him will advise him, that I am correct in this. If he buys a new car, he will pay sales tax on it where he buys it.

Mr. Boudria: Check it some more. It is not right.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The member does not want to hear the answer; he has made up his mind as to what the answer should be. I am telling him what the answer is.

Mr. Breaugh: This is a rare occasion; the minister is correct.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Right.

Mr. Boudria: I hate to bring it up again, but in so far as cars are concerned, the minister is right where there is a reciprocal agreement between two provinces. If the car is bought at a dealership that is 50 or 75 miles into Quebec and there is no reciprocal agreement, you buy the car, take a copy of the invoice to the licence bureau in Ontario, get it transferred and then pick up the car. In that way you end up paying the Ontario sales tax.

I do buy new cars occasionally, although they are not nearly as expensive as the new cars provided for the ministers.

However, the car business is not the relevant issue. The issue involves items of furniture, which are not taxed in Quebec and which are taxed in Ontario. I invite the minister to respond to that aspect of it.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am sorry, I did not get the last part of that, but I can assure the member he is totally wrong on that. I can understand why he wants to get away from that subject and not discuss it as a comparison.

Mr. Riddell: Do not be so bloody sanctimonious.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Look who is here. I am sorry. Did I wake him up?

Mr. Riddell: Do not be so sanctimonious.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am not being sanctimonious. The member does not call the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) sanctimonious for the way he comes on, or even the member himself for the way he comes on.

Mr. Boudria: Why does the minister not answer the question?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I am trying to make the point that the sales tax is two per cent higher in Quebec than it is in Ontario. People could very

well come to Ontario to buy a car with sales tax at seven per cent as opposed to nine per cent. I am sorry, but the member is wrong on that business about sales tax he paid at the dealer. Even my friends from the New Democratic Party agree with that. The member for Oshawa said I finally got one right.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I would like to review with the minister some questions I raised the last time we had an opportunity to discuss his revenue bill. He will recall at that time, I tabled some 23 pages of tables that I had researchers do for Etobicoke and Toronto as well as some initial explorations for the city of Ottawa. Not having the budget for staff that the minister has, we were not able to complete the process in Ottawa.

The pattern basically held the same in all three cities, namely, that condominiums are grossly overtaxed compared to other forms of housing. We were able to show that in Etobicoke the condominium owners are double-taxed—they pay municipal taxes and they pay to have services performed by private contractors—and we have dealt with that in other estimates.

At the same time, in dealing with the specific research of the city of Toronto, we found that in Toronto the taxes on the average condominium were more than 50 per cent higher than those on single-family homes that sold for the same amount, and in Etobicoke the discrepancy in assessments was even greater.

I find the history of how this happened rather interesting. The minister's response was, "There is nothing we can do about it, because there is a matter before the courts." Of course, there is always a matter before the courts, and one can use that as a rationalization for not doing anything about practically any problem.

The minister may recall that in 1974 a lawyer by the name of Barry Widman won an appeal of unfair tax assessment for an Etobicoke condominium corporation in charge of a complex called The Grange. The case was initially presented at the assessment review court and it passed through successively higher court levels. The case was won by the corporation at each court level but was appealed by the province. After hearings at the county court, the Ontario Municipal Board and finally the Court of Appeal, the corporation had a victory; at that point the province stepped in and amended the Assessment Act.

The province had previously computed its assessment rates from 1940 property value figures. As I traced them in my speech in the

Legislature on November 1, 1983, various things have interfered in the marketplace to put the property taxes on condominiums way out of whack in comparison to those on other forms of housing.

The minister admitted—and I appreciate that he did admit it—that with one or two minor discrepancies, the research held and in fact was valid. Having accepted the validity of my contention that condominium owners are being overtaxed on their property, is he now prepared to take any action to correct this great injustice?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Chairman, I have of course spoken to the honourable member, and I do recall that when we were presenting the amendment to the Assessment Act back in the fall, I did get this research from him and I had my staff look it over. There was some degree of accuracy in his figures.

As the member will know, condominiums are assessed as single-family homes. I do not think he disputes that at all, although I think he would rather it were not so; but they are assessed as single-family homes on the same basis as such homes.

This has been challenged in the court, and there have been conflicting reports by courts as to which is the proper way to do it. At present, a vast number of them—a lot of them from my riding and from Mississauga as a whole—are being dealt with before the courts. I do not know what else I can tell the member at this point, but I am not looking at any major change in the way they are being assessed at present.

Mr. Philip: If you go for an assessment review and try to present your case as, "There is a house in the same area worth X dollars; I have a condominium of equal value," that kind of analogy will not be accepted; instead, you have to compare it only with other condominiums, which puts you in a no-win situation. It means that for a whole group of housing that is overtaxed, you have to try to prove the case that you are overtaxed by comparing it with other forms of housing that are also overtaxed, and you cannot win on that.

It is bad enough that condominium owners are overtaxed in the sense that they are being taxed to pay for services other people receive free from the municipality but which they pay for out of their maintenance fees; then the ministry comes along and gives them this other slap. They are being doubly taxed on their type of housing. Since the minister does accept the research as being valid, is it not about time he looked at the situation?

In 1974 he saw there was an inequity and tried to correct it. Why is it that now, when he can see there is an inequity being perpetrated, he does not try to remove that inequity?

The owners of larger and more luxurious condominiums, who can hire the lawyers, are being somewhat although not completely successful in going to the various stages of court.

The units in an average, middle-class condominium with 55 or 100 units of working-class and middle-class people are now selling for, at the uppermost, \$60,000 to \$75,000 per unit. Those people are not in the position to hire lawyers ad infinitum. They do not have the numbers in their condominium to afford it, in many cases because of the size of the condominium. They are put in a no-win situation.

Why is it the minister is not prepared to move on this?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: As I have told the member, and I think he has basically repeated his initial statement, this is under advisement. We are not contemplating any changes at this point.

Mr. Philip: Now that the minister has had an opportunity to examine the research, will he agree with two premises, that condominiums as a group are overtaxed in relation to other forms of housing and that middle-class, medium-priced condominiums are more highly taxed than luxury condominiums? If so, how does he justify this kind of inequity?

Those with more money, the owners of more luxurious condominiums, are paying fewer taxes proportionately to the value of their property than are middle-income and working people.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: The problem with condominiums is their sudden reduction in market value. Perhaps they are overassessed because they are assessed as a single family home and yet the actual marketability of condominiums has been reduced.

I do not agree that there is a point to be made, as he tries to do, that only rich people who live in rich condominiums get a fair shake because they can afford rich lawyers, and the people who are in lesser-priced condominiums get a poor deal because they can only get cheaper lawyers or no lawyers at all. I cannot approach it in that way.

I have to tell the member again that we do not want to be in the position of changing the system as he suggests. This would put us in the position of reassessing every condominium every year. I do not think the money to do that is there.

5 p.m.

Mr. Philip: If the minister would read Hansard, he would see I did not suggest that. I

said it could be done periodically; I did not suggest every year.

The minister still has not answered my two essential questions. Does he agree that condominiums as a group are overtaxed? That is the first question. It is a fairly straightforward question. I simply want an answer. Is it yes or no? Are they overtaxed compared to other forms of housing? Second, does he agree with my research that shows luxury condominiums are less overtaxed than medium-priced condominiums?

Will he answer those two questions? Yes for the first one, yes for the second; or no for the first one, whatever combination; but two words, one for each.

Are condominiums overtaxed as a group of housing compared to other forms of housing, and are middle income or medium-priced condominiums more heavily taxed than luxury condominiums?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: On the basis the member has put the question, I would say no and no. I do not think the condominiums are being taxed unfairly and no, I do not think a differentiation is made between a higher-priced condominium and a lower-priced one.

Mr. Philip: If the answer is no and no, what basis would he have for saying my research had considerable validity? Where was the validity? Those were the two theses, the two premises of the research.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I think the problem might be in the member's interpretation of his own research. We can accept his research as being carefully and well done, but his interpretation and ours might differ substantially.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, I regret we have only 12 minutes left for the estimates of the Ministry of Revenue because there are a number of factors I would like to bring into the discussion. The first is the minister's interpretation of the contact members of this Legislature can have with members of the civil service.

I remind him that my staff was trying to arrange a meeting between myself and Mr. McClung, the commissioner of the region of York in late April or early May. Mr. McClung was told we could not meet unless we contacted the minister's office. The second time I spoke to the minister about this, he said it was okay to meet him in his office but it was not fine to meet any of his staff in this building.

If one wants to take that to crazy proportions it means that if I want to speak to W. J. Lettner, who is sitting back there, or T. M. Russell, the

deputy minister, who is sitting in front, I cannot do so unless I first clear it with minister. If one wants to take it to crazy proportions it means that if the minister goes away on holidays for 10 days or for two or three weeks, or for whatever period of time, and we want to speak to a civil servant in his ministry, we have to wait for him to come back from holidays.

That same insecurity was not felt by Darcy McKeough when he was Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, or when he was Minister of Municipal Affairs, because when there were critics of the various ministries he held, he said, "Come on over and speak to the civil servants whenever you want or they will go to see you whenever you want." They had an open-door policy as far as information was concerned.

I want to draw to the minister's attention that this is something of an asinine policy. The civil servants are not his civil servants; they belong to the Ontario public. We should not have to clear it with his office so he can monitor their actions every time we want to speak with a civil servant, whether at his office or at Queen's Park.

If the minister follows that logic, I could not even speak to the deputy minister or the assistant deputy minister here without writing a note or coming over and asking for permission to speak to them, because that is what the minister said, that we could not speak to the commissioner of York at Queen's Park unless we had his permission. Although the minister indicated it was a courtesy, nevertheless when we went back a second time he was still not provided to us for consultation on assessment.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Obviously, the reason for that was that, after having spoken to me, the member continued to be discourteous. It is as simple as that. I would like to go over this step by step, because my story is substantially different from that of the member. He has given his story on several occasions by jumping up on points of privilege when he knew I would not have a chance to answer. That was a very good tactic.

Now that I have a few moments, I would like to tell the story as I understand it. It begins with a telephone call to Mr. McClung, the assessment commissioner in Newmarket, where he was directed by someone on the member's research staff, whose name escapes me, to appear at Queen's Park after question period, at approximately 3:30 p.m. to meet with the member and possibly someone else.

Mr. McClung contacted us and the message got through to me. My answer was I did not think

a responsible civil servant in Newmarket, head of the office, should jump every time any member of this Legislature gives a directive to do so.

I talked to the member and his virtual seatmate the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) and explained to him in the member's absence that all I am suggesting is a reasonable notice for our staff to come from out of town. If a member is in one of the agencies and wants to speak to somebody, I could not care less, if they have time.

The point I am making is I do not think the member or any other should summon any member of the civil service staff in the town for his convenience. If the member cannot understand that—it becomes a matter of common courtesy.

It would not be untoward for any member to write a note. Even the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) writes me the odd note; not personal notes, they are usually in typed form. When he has a request, I get mail from him. If this member wanted to meet someone from the staff, what is wrong with sending a note saying: "Bud, we would like to have a meeting with Mr. McClung. What do you think"? I would say: "Fine. Arrange it. Give him a little notice."

He does not sit on his duff waiting for the member's phone calls. He has a job to do and is paid rather well for doing it. That is all I can say about the matter. If the member cannot understand it is just a matter of common courtesy, rather than being domineering and protective, then I feel sorry for him.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, I approached the researcher on this. She categorically denied she directed him to do anything. She spoke to his staff. He said he was going to come, then he spoke to the minister's office and said he could not come. This has been going on since late April, early May. We have been trying to establish a meeting for a month now and still he has not agreed to come.

We tried the second time only last week, and it took him almost a week, from last Thursday to Wednesday, to reply to a phone call. That is a different situation. I have the notes here. She did not tape the call, but I asked her to make notes on the conversation she had. If the minister wants to go through them with me, I will be glad to do so. It is completely different from what the minister has been told, and I have spoken directly with the researcher on it.

If it takes more than a month to get a meeting, and nobody directed him to come here—the minister told me himself he wanted to be

informed; he thought it would be a courtesy to let him know whenever we wanted to speak to a civil servant because they are members of his staff. The minister said if I wanted to speak to his staff, then he would expect me to clear it through his office.

The minister can speak to my staff any time he wants to. He can call them without clearing it through me. Whenever he wants to speak to the staff he can do so. I do not feel insecure about the minister speaking to my staff.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: With the attitude the member has, I would feel insecure if I were he. He is wrong on this. I have said nothing about my staff not being allowed to talk to him. He seems to be deliberately avoiding this. The only stipulation I have made is if someone is pulling members out of the Newmarket office or any other branch office to come here to meet with him, all he needs to do is clear it with somebody, give somebody some notice. He is not sitting in Newmarket waiting for the member's call so he can come and attend to his business here when he already has his plate full there. All we need is a little notice. Surely, even the member can understand that.

Mr. Epp: I understand it, but why has he not been able to come? We have already tried for one month. Can the minister explain that to me?

Mr. Stokes: He has a big plate.

Mr. Breagh: He is in hiding, that is all.

Mr. Epp: They tried on May 1 and today is June 4.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: It is very simple. The member seems intent that this is not the way it is going to be. He went ahead on a second occasion and proceeded in exactly the same way he did on the first occasion.

Mr. Epp: Exactly. I told the minister I would not ask his permission to speak to the civil servants of this province, and I will not ask his permission now, and I will not in the future. If the minister prevents me from speaking to Mr. McClung because I have to clear it through his office, I tell him now on the record that I will not do it.

5:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Not once did I refuse to let the member talk to him or anything else, and he knows it. He continues hammering at this. He is hammering on this all the time, and he is not telling the truth.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I withdraw that.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: But it will be in Hansard.

Mr. Epp: That is twice the minister has had to withdraw. He had to withdraw some last week because he told me I was from the boonies from Waterloo and that was after he was at the boonies speaking to the assessment—

Interjection.

Mr. Epp: What is that?

Mr. Gillies: That is right. Don't you have enough to keep busy?

Mr. Hodgson: I know exactly what you need.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Gentlemen, we have this rule about being "likely to create disorder."

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, we do not have a lot of time to speak about assessment. I did want to draw the minister's attention to the fact that there are a number of things with regard to assessment as applied to subsection 63(3). Let me ask him a very short question because we do not have much time. When municipalities ask for subsection 63(3) equalized assessment, and the ministry has all the computerized information and all the data it wants, why does it not share this information with the various municipalities before they have to make a decision?

As the minister knows, we have had the problem in Newcastle, Hamilton, Niagara Falls and North Bay. We hear the same problem wherever my task force goes. That is that although the municipalities get averages on categories, they do not get the individual information. The problem is that averages do not tell them anything. There could be a 400 per cent increase for somebody or a 400 per cent decrease. I ask the minister to give us some clear indication why he will not give that computerized information to municipalities before they make their decisions rather than giving it to them afterwards.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Before councils are asked to make a decision or before they pass a resolution to accept market value assessment under section 63, they are given this information. It is brought to them by the regional commissioners and explained to them and they are shown what the impact is going to be.

Mr. Epp: On groups, but not individuals.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Does the member want 500,000 individual cases given to him?

Mr. Epp: Yes, because averages do not tell them what it is going to do.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Under the Assessment Act, I do not believe we have the authority to divulge that information on a personal basis.

Mr. Epp: The ministry does afterwards.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I do not have anything further to add.

Votes 901 to 903, inclusive, agreed to.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gregory, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

House in committee of the whole.

BARRIE-VESPRA ANNEXATION ACT

Consideration of Bill 142, An Act respecting the City of Barrie and the Township of Vespra.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any comments on any section of the bill?

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, as we get into clause-by-clause of this bill again, after having done so in standing committee on general government, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to this House an understanding of the rationale for the bill. At the same time I know that many rural municipalities need reassurance—

Mr. Chairman: Order. Would we not be best served to go section by section at this point?

Mr. Rotenberg: I have some opening remarks, if I may.

Mr. Chairman: No, we do not have opening remarks in committee.

Mr. Breaugh: I think we are all anxious to make a few opening remarks. It has been some time since we had the bill before us and I think it is appropriate.

Mr. Chairman: The procedure has been that we would go section by section. Perhaps we could have those as a preamble to section 1. Your comments, please.

Mr. Rotenberg: My pleasure.

Mr. Breaugh: Yes. I think we are prepared to give unanimous consent here. The parliamentary assistant and the opposition critics would each appreciate the opportunity to make a few opening remarks on section 1. We are in committee and I think that would be in order.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, if you would like to call section 1, I will make my remarks under that.

Mr. Chairman: I think members will find that tradition and precedent have always been to take it section by section. But we will call section 1 and then have the comments of the parliamentary assistant.

On section 1:

Mr. Rotenberg: On section 1, as I was saying, I would like to give the House an understanding of the rationale for this bill. At the same time I know there are many rural municipalities that need reassurance that annexations will not occur willy-nilly, as some would have them believe by an inaccurate rendering of the facts related to this bill.

There are two reasons for annexation. One is to provide raw land for urban expansion and the other is to recognize that urban growth has already taken place and should be part of the urban core. The second reason for annexation is logical because the cost of servicing fringe areas is levered on to the city or the province with the expensive infrastructure of roads, snow ploughing, water, sewage, garbage disposal, public transportation, schools and hospitals. More important, peripheral development without corrective change also imposes major demands on city core services such as sewer, transit, fire and community facilities.

The government has made a case, as Barrie did before the Ontario Municipal Board eight years ago, that the commercial shopping district and adjacent urbanizing areas on the edge of Barrie should be governed by the urban municipality. This has nothing to do with population projections. It has everything to do with the desirability of having the urban growth and its accompanying impacts and servicing needs—policing, roads, fire protection and the planning of an urban community as a whole—contained within one urban jurisdiction.

Even as I speak, there are many municipalities, cities, towns and townships talking and negotiating together, addressing those very issues in a serious attempt to make appropriate urban and rural boundary adjustments to respond to change or changing conditions in their respective areas of responsibility. There are seven negotiating committees now working across the province negotiating in good faith a resolution to their mutual boundary problems and issues.

Two negotiated agreements have already been reached in the Little Current and Glencoe areas. This approach reflects the acknowledgement by both provincial and local leaders that municipal boundaries are indeed arbitrary lines drawn with the object of creating municipal units within which citizens may best govern themselves and, through their administration, provide services to residents and properties. The drawing of such boundaries is clearly a political act that should be

undertaken by politicians, not by an appointed administrative body.

Certainly annexation by legislation is an important part of our history and it is a very long history. But I will refer just to more recent times. The period of the 1960s and early 1970s was marked by major population shifts, and provincial and local politicians responded to meet the need for boundary adjustments. The response came in the form of studies and wide municipal and public input which led to the consolidation of dozens of area municipalities by amalgamation or annexation. About 200 municipalities in this province were affected.

5:20 p.m.

Notable among these were Cambridge, Kanata and Kitchener-Waterloo. Waterloo, for example, was approximately doubled in size in 1973 by having annexed to it portions of Waterloo township. All of Waterloo township, as an example, was annexed to either Waterloo city or Kitchener. Thunder Bay, Timmins and Wasaga Beach were also legislated in that period.

The point I want to emphasize is that all the politicians representing all the parties participated. Not everyone got his way, but all participated. There was an understanding that if everyone's position were followed, there could be no policy and no resolution.

In even more recent times, we have seen local leaders quite prepared to take action on these difficult but important matters of public policy. It was the initiative of city mayors and a positive attempt by rural municipalities to find a solution that in 1979 provided the groundwork that led to the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act. Out of those early talks grew the concept of pilot projects, such as the Brant-Brantford area, where there was a successful resolution of boundary problems by local leaders with the support of members of the opposition parties at that time.

I would say just a word about one important motivating factor in moving boundary resolutions between and among municipalities clearly into the political forum. Points of law rather than public interest had become a fascination. For example, there seems to be some store placed in the fact that the Ontario Municipal Board decisions in the Barrie area were "overturned by the courts." Let us be clear on that. The courts were making judgements on procedural matters and procedural matters only, not on the merits of annexation.

I emphasize that this government considers boundary adjustments are matters for politicians

and not for courts to decide. Even the courts were not pronouncing on the annexation itself, but on how a quasi-judicial body, the OMB, was proceeding to deal with it.

There was another matter that was resolved as a forerunner of the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act. That was the dispute between the township of Innisfil and the city of Barrie. This gives a good example of politicians coming to grips with problems of political jurisdiction.

I remind members of the comments of Reeve Andrade of Innisfil township before the standing committee on general government when we were holding public hearings last January on this bill. I consider these most impressive in terms of our ability to govern ourselves. Reeve Andrade was asked to outline briefly why he agreed to give up 9,300 acres and 4,400 people. I would like to quote his answer.

"It has been a very long story and our municipality was one that did not think the province was using the right process and went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada and won. Not many small municipalities dig in their heels that greatly. There was also a recognition that our municipality had allowed, rightfully or wrongfully, fringe development to a point. There was also a recognition that some people, which is human nature, would like to have rural taxation but be totally related to and dependent on the city. We had allowed that, be it right or wrong, around the borders of the city. In truthfulness, the municipality was really not capable of giving the services to some of the areas."

That is the end of the quote of Reeve Andrade. There was more to the exchange in committee. I am sure members opposite will wish to recall it, but it was one of the most enlightened and encouraging statements made before committee, as modern parlance puts it, to tell it like it is. I say again that the reeve stated to the committee, "As a township that has been through the process, with a lot of unknowns ahead, we felt we have been dealt with fairly."

While I have described an enlightened society that is willing to talk about and take steps to adjust its shape to changing conditions, this is apparently anathema to Vespra township. Every body that has addressed and is addressing these issues in a spirit of problem-solving seems to be out of step with the township of Vespra. The government has felt obliged in this case, with a task force report, several OMB hearings—one of which lasted nine months—several court cases up to the Supreme Court of Canada and more than \$1 million in public funds spent over 10 years on

legal fees, to be referee and draw this matter to a conclusion.

A forum of last resort in these matters is the Legislature and its general government committee, which has heard a number of representations. I remind the members of this House of the changes to the bill which resulted from the committee's deliberations.

1. The acreage involved has been reduced by about half, leaving in Vespra the prime agricultural land, Little Lake and the Barrie Golf and Country Club.

2. The county has been made eligible for financial compensation.

3. A moratorium to the year 2012, the same as for Innisfil, has been placed on disputed annexations.

4. More flexibility has been added to the method by which the annexed residents will be represented on the Barrie city council.

There are many jurisdictions, not only in North America but around the world, that envy our ability here in Ontario to adjust municipal boundaries to meet changing needs and conditions if necessary.

Vespra stated in a recent letter: "Merely because an urban municipality says they want something, the provincial government can ensure that they get it without establishing the basic criteria or need." This is simply not true.

Previously, an urban municipality had to prove need before the Ontario Municipal Board. Under the new boundaries process, an urban municipality must make a case both during fact-finding and during negotiations to justify change. Change is not automatic.

May I state again that the government of Ontario is looking to local leaders to participate in resolving boundary issues. As the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) has stated, decisions related to municipal boundaries are, as a matter of public policy, being sorted out at the local level. The Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act, which was supported by all parties in this House a few years ago, is testimony to that belief. It is only when negotiations and mediations totally break down that the government, as provided in the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act, may find it necessary to act.

However, I want to assure this House and all the municipalities in the province that this government will continue to press for and assist in negotiations. It is committed to the negotiating process in all municipal boundary disputes.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to speak to this bill. I regret the government has agreed to pursue this inequitable path of taking land away from a viable community. I regret the government has not proceeded through the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act. I regret the government is trying to punish one small municipality for a study that is regarded, even by the government, I am sure, as completely out of touch with reality.

This study, which was done in the late 1960s or early 1970s, forecast a population of somewhat over 100,000 for Barrie, and this bill is supposed to help to give it the population expansion that the study predicted. Everyone knows the government is going to have to have a miracle—and we do not see many miracles these days, particularly with this government—in order to show that population in the Barrie area.

I want to speak for a moment on the parliamentary assistant's comments that these are not "willy-nilly" annexations. I wonder what he is going to say when the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) becomes Premier. Is he going to say Frankie-Panky? Or when the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) becomes Premier, is he going to say Larry-Parry? Just because the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) happens to be Premier, he does not have to refer to him as Willy-Nilly. Nevertheless, it is something the parliamentary assistant will want to take up with the Premier when he is back from another one of his trips to Europe.

The parliamentary assistant has also commented on the fact that seven other sets of negotiations are going on across the province with two or more municipalities under the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act. I want to remind him that the township of Vespra gave up land on at least two previous occasions since the early 1950s through negotiations with the city of Barrie. It has always been prepared to negotiate.

5:30 p.m.

I want to remind the parliamentary assistant that the township, in fact—I think it was in the early 1980s, perhaps in 1982 or 1983—wrote to the Premier of this province and asked him to undertake to persuade the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to start negotiations between the city of Barrie and the township of Vespra. That was after Barrie refused to go along with those negotiations and asked for twice as much land as the Ontario Municipal Board had given to Barrie on a previous occasion. The OMB gave 320 acres to Barrie through a

decision. It then asked for twice as much all of a sudden through negotiations.

In other words, it was showing bad faith. It was at that point that Vespra decided not to proceed with negotiations. It was Vespra, not Barrie that had asked for those negotiations.

The parliamentary assistant said Vespra did not ask for the negotiations. I tell him there is correspondence to show that Vespra did ask for negotiations. I believe the reeve of the township was Mr. Buie. I can get a copy of the letter and give it to the parliamentary assistant if he does not believe it. I note that the parliamentary assistant shook his head in the negative, that Vespra did not initiate those negotiations.

I want to draw the parliamentary assistant's attention to the fact that I come from the city of Waterloo. Right next door is the city of Kitchener. We have been twin communities for many years. We have an ideal situation in those two thriving communities. I am proud to be in one community, but I would also be proud to be a member of the other community. They live side by side and there is a lot of co-operation between them.

I have faith that if he had permitted Vespra to remain as an autonomous area without taking away 2,000 acres and to keep the 90 per cent of the commercial assessment he wants to take away from it and the 40 to 45 per cent of the total assessment he wants to take away from it, those two communities could grow up side by side and have a very good partnership in a lot of services the same as Kitchener and Waterloo have.

What he is saying is that the foresight of our forefathers in keeping Waterloo and Kitchener together and yet separate was not foresight, that it was an error and two other municipalities could not do the same in Ontario. I tell him that he is totally wrong. I have greater faith in the people of Barrie and the people of Vespra than he has ever shown in this House or outside this House. That is why he has brought in this legislation.

I also want to draw his attention to the procedural thing. Despite the fact that the township of Vespra by going to higher courts has overturned the OMB rulings, he says that was on procedural matters. He just casts it aside as if procedural matters are unimportant. It was not that the OMB made a decision on nonprocedural matters and the case was thrown out; it was the fact that they were procedural matters.

I want to draw to the parliamentary assistant's attention that I am a member of the standing committee on procedural affairs and a member of this Legislature. Procedure is very important.

We have a Speaker or a chairman so we follow procedure. One can often reach the wrong conclusion by having the wrong procedure. That is what happened in the case of two decisions by the Ontario Municipal Board. The courts found they had arrived at the wrong decision by using the wrong procedure.

The parliamentary assistant said they arrived at the right decision. Many decisions are arrived at wrongly by using the wrong procedure, and that was the case here. Thank goodness for the courts. They saw what was happening, turned that decision aside and asked the OMB to start all over again.

Two of the hearing officers for the OMB were castigated by the courts for the kind of actions they had taken. Some of the people at that last hearing of the OMB were told they were going to have two stages of hearings. They were arguing legal points. After the hearing, the OMB made a decision, after completely misleading the city of Barrie and the township of Vespra and their representatives.

I say this very honestly. Whether they did it intentionally or unintentionally, I do not know. However, all one has to do is read the record. The minister, and anyone else who reads the case, knows they were told they were going to have a two-stage hearing. They were going to deal with some of the legalities of it, procedural matters, and then they were going to deal with the substance of the case itself, whether more land was supposed to go from Vespra to Barrie.

The minister knows they never had the second part of that hearing. They made the decision after the first part. That is why the Divisional Court threw it out. The minister tried to slough it off by saying it was an unimportant procedural matter. It was very important to the city of Barrie and to the township of Vespra that they proceed properly, and they did not proceed properly.

The parliamentary assistant raised the fact that Innisfil township gave up 7,908 acres in total. He said the township was relatively pleased with the way things had gone. It really did not have much choice. We asked Barrie to present its case in front of the committee. Neither the government nor Barrie put forth a very strong case in favour of annexation.

The best reference we got to the case for annexation came when we went to the county building. I think the chairman of the chamber of commerce for the city of Barrie was there. I forget his name. He referred to the fact that if Barrie got this additional 90 per cent of the commercial assessment from Vespra, the taxes in

Barrie would not be as high as they are now. In other words, he perceived it as an economic measure.

It is some months now since I heard it, but I think he suggested that as far as he perceived it—and if I am wrong on this, I will be glad to withdraw it, but I do not think I am—Barrie wanted to annex this part for economic reasons. There was a considerable amount of commercial assessment and it needed it to keep its own tax base down.

This raises another very important part, which is compensation. The parliamentary assistant indicated earlier they are prepared to negotiate. I guess Barrie is prepared to negotiate.

I am not speaking on behalf of either Vespra or Barrie, as they are very capable speaking on behalf of themselves, but when one wants to negotiate with two municipalities, one does not have an open forum at Georgian College and send the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor). The Solicitor General can address this himself since he is in his seat. He has taken a very active role on the part of Barrie, and that is his God-given right; he can do it if he wants to. However, one does not send a person as chairman to negotiate between two municipalities when his mind is already made up and there are about 40 people there to negotiate.

5:40 p.m.

If the government wants to negotiate and if it wants to show the people of Vespra and the people of Barrie that it has an open mind on compensation and that it is going to negotiate the whole thing, then it should not send the Solicitor General down there to be chairman in a forum with 40 people. He can tell the House himself he is biased, and he has been biased from square one. I say it is his right to be biased. He has taken Barrie's position. He lives in the city of Barrie, as I understand it, and he can take that position. But the government should not tell the members and the people of Ontario it wants a fair settlement and send him down there to be its chairman.

Speaking about compensation, no figure was mentioned to give to the township of Vespra. The ministry wants the township to sit down and negotiate and accept the principle that Barrie needs this 2,000 acres of land. The township is not prepared to accept that. The ministry has not offered anything to make it easy for Vespra. There was a resolution put before the standing committee on general government asking that \$10 million be given to the township, which is going to lose a considerable amount of money over the years.

Not a single person in the Georgian Mall asked to be annexed to Barrie. Not a single person who came before the committee and supported annexation came from that mall and said, "We think we would be better off if we were in the city of Barrie." I do not blame Barrie for asking for Georgian Mall. They are going to get a lot of good assessment. One would take it oneself if one could. Next week, Metropolitan Toronto, because it is bigger, may want to annex Barrie, which is a very viable community, and the government of Ontario will go along with it because it always sides with the bigger communities over the smaller ones.

That is why more than 100 small urban municipalities have supported the resolution that Vespra circulated in the province supporting its bid not to be annexed. They are opposed to annexation, and they favour a bill that the provincial government, this party and the third party supported, the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act. I almost come to tears at the fact that the government put in the bill, then would not let the bill work for it.

They put a bill out, did all the desk-thumping and everything else and said: "Are we not great? We have brought in the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act." Then, a few months before the Ontario Municipal Board's term on this negotiation procedure is to run out—I think it would have expired on February 1, 1984—the government brought in Bill 142, which is going to completely short-circuit the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act.

If they had had that act, I suppose they would have appointed the Solicitor General as their negotiator—without any extra pay, of course. The compensation the government wants to give to Vespra has never been put on the table. They have never said: "We are prepared to give you \$5 million," "We are prepared to give you \$2 million" or "We are prepared to give you 50 cents." The Solicitor General would never say that, not as chairman.

Instead, they say: "Why don't you people sit down like nice people, like good guys. We are going to rape you of 2,000 acres or 90 per cent of your commercial assessment. We are going to rape you of 40 per cent to 45 per cent of your total assessment. We are going to make you almost impotent, but you should be thankful to the great government of Ontario, which has a \$25-billion budget to back up this piece of legislation and a \$2.5-billion deficit to boot."

They are telling the township of Vespra: "We are good guys. Just listen to us. We are not

prepared to put anything on the table, but you go along and negotiate yourself almost out of existence. Then tell your taxpayers to vote for the Solicitor General, because he is the guy who brought all this about."

If the Solicitor General had not been responsible for this, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing would never have had the courage to bring in this piece of legislation. I know the government already regrets bringing it in. I challenge the parliamentary assistant to deny it, because his back-benchers have already told me it would not have been brought in had he known it was going to cause such a stink.

Mr. Rotenberg: I deny the statement the member has made. We do not regret bringing in this legislation.

Mr. Chairman: We owe it to ourselves to remember our function in the committee on this occasion. We did permit the parliamentary assistant seven or eight minutes of comment on section 1. The member is now making his comments for his party, and I expect we will hear from the third party.

I have not called members to order as yet, but it is true that the function of a committee on a bill is to go through it section by section. We have had second reading, the principle of the bill has been passed and we are in committee to deal with it section by section.

I am in your hands, but we do have our rules and we are not technically abiding by them. I will not be calling anyone to order, but I ask all members to try to have some sameness in the sharing of time. Perhaps we can then get on with clause-by-clause.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, you understand we are talking about the township of Vespra being annexed. I am very much addressing the principle of this bill and the very first part, clause 1(1)(a); so I am very much on topic.

Mr. Chairman: I am simply reminding the member that we have had second reading.

Mr. Epp: I would like to draw members' attention to the fact that Vespra council members are here. We have Reeve Adams and a number of councillors and staff here. Mayor Archer is in the opposite corner with members of his council and staff. We welcome them here for this debate.

Mr. Chairman: I want to abide by the rules that we have been given in our committee work.

Mr. Epp: As a member of the standing committee on procedural affairs, I do not wish to be found wanting. But I am speaking about this annexed area. I am speaking about 2,000 acres, I

am speaking about environmentally sensitive areas and I am speaking about prime agricultural land that is going to be annexed.

I cannot understand why Barrie wants all that agricultural land unless it is going to develop it. Why would an urbanizing municipality want agricultural land taken from a smaller municipality if it were not going to build houses, industry, cottages, commercial malls, whatever? I cannot see why it would want the agricultural land. I always thought townships were essentially rural in nature and cities were urban in nature.

The land Barrie wants to build and expand on is the 2,000 acres it will be getting in this proposed legislation. By the year 2012, I believe it is, Barrie hopes to have the whole 2,000 acres it is getting from Vespra township filled up, as well as the 8,908 acres it just got from Innisfil township.

When we had hearings, a number of people came before the committee to say that Barrie had annexed some of this land 15 to 20 years ago. I am not sure whether it came from Oro, Vespra or Innisfil; those are the three townships that surround Barrie. They still did not have services on some of that land.

My impression was that when areas are annexed to an urbanizing municipality such as Barrie, one of the reasons it is annexed is to get services such as sewers, water, regular garbage collection and things of that nature.

I cannot recall what they said with respect to regular garbage collection, but they did say they did not get the other services. They did not have water and certainly did not have sewer, and they have been in the city of Barrie for 15 or 20 years. What good was it to annex them to Barrie some years ago with some expectation of urban services if they still do not have those?

5:50 p.m.

In annexing all this property to Barrie there must be an intention, first, to urbanize the property and, second, to provide services to those areas. The record shows they have not provided services to many of the areas they had annexed 15 or 20 years ago.

The other important thing was that in drawing the boundary lines—we are speaking about annexed areas, and that obviously refers to the boundary line—the ministerial staff originally put the boundary line partly through the lake. The committee felt very strongly that the most sensitive area of the lake—that is, in the immediate vicinity—should be kept in the township of Vespra.

As a result of discussions more recent than those, the boundary line was drawn into Barrie; and the lake, being the very sensitive environmental area it is, will be kept in Vespra.

Mr. Chairman: The member is pausing here. Is he wrapping up?

Mr. Epp: Yes, it is just a pause; but, coming from Waterloo, where we have Labatt's, I guess this is not going to be the pause that refreshes.

I just want to go back for a moment to discuss the more than 100 small municipalities. Having been the mayor of a municipality, a regional councillor and a municipal councillor for almost 10 years, I know that municipalities do not respond lightly to resolutions that are circulated, often, to all other municipalities of the province, and that means, as members know, more than 835 municipalities.

I suppose it is easier for the smaller municipalities to file in file 13 a resolution that is circulated, because they do not have the staff to respond to all the kinds of resolutions that come forward. So I think the fact that more than 100 municipalities have responded to a resolution that Vespra circulated in opposition to Bill 142 is a very important matter. It means that 750,000 to one million people represented in those very small, important municipalities are opposed to this bill.

They oppose the bill for a number of reasons. They oppose it first of all because it sets a bad precedent. It is the first case since the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act was passed in which the province is stepping in and trying to annex. It is not merely trying to annex; it will annex. It has the majority; it will bring down the heavy club and it will annex those 2,000 acres.

It does not matter what Vespra says, and it does not matter whether Barrie is in favour of it; that is unimportant as far as the government is concerned. Barrie got 2,000 acres, but that may not be exactly the number it wanted; it may have wanted 1,500 acres. It was in favour of the annexation, and it will get a considerable amount of land and a considerable amount of assessment. But the fact that more than 100 small municipalities have passed a resolution condemning the government and opposing this bill is important.

The other important point, and I want to get back to compensation for a minute, is how this compensation is going to be paid. If the government were to put down a formula and say, "Vespra is going to get \$5 million and Barrie is going to pay it, because you are getting all the commercial assessment," then Barrie would know where it stood.

Barrie does not know where it stands right now. It got \$24 million for a sewer project or something like that—\$18 million or \$19 million; I cannot get a message from up there, but it was close to \$20 million. Is it going to be expected to use part of that sewer money—for want of a better phrase—to compensate Vespra or is that money going to come from the provincial Treasury?

The province is bringing in the legislation. It is forcing this annexation. It is the culprit in this whole matter. I am sorry to say that, but it is the culprit. It is the one that is doing this. Barrie may want it, but it could not do it without that provincial assistance. What did the parliamentary assistant say? "Willy-nilly"?

Mr. Haggerty: A willing buyer.

Mr. Epp: Speaking about a willing buyer, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory) was here a few minutes ago; his ministry has assessment on properties. He keeps saying, "In order to determine assessment, one has to have a willing buyer and seller." This is not a very good case for establishing some kind of assessment.

The parliamentary assistant, the Solicitor General and all the members of the government party know it may have a willing buyer here, but it sure does not have a willing seller. It would never have a sale under these kinds of conditions. It is unfortunate the government has gone ahead with this, because it is not treating Vespra the way it would want to be treated.

Although the federal legislation is a little different with respect to powers and so forth—I am familiar with sections 91, 92 and 93 of the British North America Act and the comparable sections of the new Charter of Rights and the Canadian Constitution—if the federal government treated the province half as badly as the province has treated the township of Vespra, the Premier would immediately have a general election on that issue and come back with a majority of 125 seats or thereabouts. That is what would happen if the federal government were to treat the provincial government half as badly as it has treated the township of Vespra. Yet the government sits there smiling, pats itself on the back and thinks it is doing a great thing for the people of Ontario.

As a member of another community, the government would not dare treat the cities of Toronto, North York, Etobicoke, York and Scarborough and the borough of East York—any one of the Metropolitan Toronto municipalities—

the cities of Hamilton, Ottawa, Waterloo, Windsor, London, Mississauga, or any of the larger municipalities the way it has treated Vespra, because it would become a provincial issue. Once that became a large-scale provincial issue, the government could see itself losing a lot of seats. Then it would not do it, but it will do it to Vespra because Vespra has a population of only a few thousand.

Even the Solicitor General can tell us that most of his votes are in Barrie and he is not concerned about Vespra. He never even appeared at the hearings when they were in this Legislative Building, and his office is only a few blocks away.

Mr. Edighoffer: He had a chauffeur to bring him in.

Mr. Epp: As the member for Perth tells us, he had a chauffeur to bring him in. He had staff who could have sat here and reminded him exactly what time the hearings started. He did have a staff member here who could have called him up and said:

"The meeting is going to start in five minutes. Why does the minister not come down, show his face and tell the people he is at least trying to understand the problem? He should tell the people of Vespra township, the ones who were coming down in busloads for the 10 o'clock hearings and leaving at four o'clock, that at least he empathizes and sympathizes with them. He should tell them he is going to try to get a fair deal for them. If he cannot make all those meetings here when they are only a few blocks from his office, he can tell them when they go back to his constituency." I think the county building is in the constituency. If it is not, I apologize. However, he was not to be seen.

I say to the parliamentary assistant that they botched this thing right from the start. He was not in on the making of the decision; the Solicitor General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Premier were. I do not know whether Eddie Goodman was in on it, but Cadillac Fairview was involved.

That brings up another important point. He knows this bill—

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps the member could leave the other point he is about to bring up until after the supper hour.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, June 4, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, June 4, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of the whole.

BARRIE-VESPRA ANNEXATION ACT (continued)

Resuming consideration of Bill 142, An Act respecting the City of Barrie and the Township of Vespra.

On section 1:

Mr. Chairman: Before the recess, the member for Waterloo North had the floor. He might even have been wrapping up his comments.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, I was just about finished when you cut me off in mid-sentence.

There is this beautiful mall in Vespra township known as the Georgian Mall on Bayfield Street. The owner, Cadillac Fairview, wanted to put on quite an addition, costing in the neighbourhood of \$20 million. The project had to have the approval of the Ontario Municipal Board. Barrie opposed the expansion of that mall. The day the government agreed to go ahead with Bill 142, I understand that objection was withdrawn and permission was given to Cadillac Fairview to proceed with the expansion of the mall. It was a coincidence, I am sure, but nevertheless it is noteworthy.

Mr. Chairman: I thank the member for his remarks. I remind the member for Oshawa that we are in committee to deal with clause-by-clause, but we are having a few brief opening remarks.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, I intend to be as brief as the previous speaker and perhaps a little fuller than the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg). I call to your attention, sir, that I do not believe you will find in the standing orders a closure rule or a time limit rule on clause-by-clause debate. I do not think you will find that, but you have established it by the two previous speakers.

Mr. McClellan: You could apply the Rotenberg rule.

Mr. Rotenberg: You could have.

Mr. McClellan: Ring the bells for 47 weeks.

Mr. Breagh: You could have had a chance to apply the Rotenberg rule, that is true, but we

have not had a chance to debate that report yet and have the member for Wilson Heights have his rule on the books.

Mr. Rotenberg: I cannot understand why you do not add your name to it. It was your idea.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, one tries to help members out around here and they are consistently ungrateful. I do not understand it.

Mr. Rotenberg: I would like to help you out. Interjection.

Mr. Breagh: The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling) should just stay secretive over there. Do not start things.

Mr. Martel: I do not think you should say anything, Norm.

Mr. Stokes: He might divulge something.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Have you read it?

Mr. Martel: I am afraid to.

Mr. Breagh: There is a lot of heavy cross-fire here, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to get caught in it.

I think it is suitable that we have some opening remarks from all sides on this bill because it has been some time since we had the bill in committee. We did go through what I found was the most remarkable set of public hearings I have been a participant in since I became a member here.

I have never seen a bill, one of this nature in particular, be discussed at such length and with such vigour by a community. It is one of the few bills we have taken to committee with which, quite frankly, if one were an observer and not attached to a political party or a participant in the process, one would be left at the end of the hearing stage with the impression that there was no sane reason to proceed.

There was no one—not a government member, not one proponent from the council of the city of Barrie, not one of the numerous citizens or citizens' groups that appeared—who really appeared to support this bill aggressively. At the very best, one would have to say in all fairness, the Barrie council was there and paid considerable attention to the bill; but when its turn came to speak to the bill, it certainly did not mount an

aggressive argument that the bill was absolutely essential to the life and development of Barrie.

Perhaps it is because those who were very closely attached to this piece of legislation assumed that everyone understood all the fine points of the bill. If so, that is a bit of a tragedy, because it seems to me the case for this bill has not yet been made. That is a tragedy because we have gone through a rather lengthy debate on second reading in which we searched for the principle of the bill. We have taken it through committee and through a series of public hearings, and in all of that time there were certainly lots of opportunities for members of the Legislature or representatives of a citizens' group or of a council to make the argument that this bill would do something positive in the area.

There are other oddities about the bill that cannot go unnoticed. This is one of the few pieces of legislation I have seen come through this House that was introduced by a minister and then promptly abandoned by the minister. It is true that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) did introduce the legislation and he did provide an opening statement to the Legislature.

Since that time he has had nothing to do with the bill and, in my view, that simply shows good judgement on his part. He left the unfortunate task of steering this through a committee to his parliamentary assistant, who, as usual, gets all the dirty jobs around here and perhaps enjoys going through the muck and mire of politics in Ontario.

Mr. Stokes: He is a masochist.

Mr. Breagh: I do not think even he pretends to be an expert on either Barrie or Vespra, but he somehow is stuck carrying the pail, so to speak.

Mr. McClellan: George Taylor should be carrying this bill.

Mr. Breagh: The other oddity is that in a public way the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) appears to be the minister in charge for some reason. On the rare occasions when the government of Ontario is represented by a minister of the crown concerning this bill, it turns out to be not the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing but rather the Solicitor General.

It is true that one could muster an argument that he is, in part, the local member and I have certainly read his statements that he is attempting to back this annexation for the good of the entire area or to resolve a long-standing problem, but I find some small measure of confusion in the presentation made by the minister.

For example, I find it passing odd that the Solicitor General of Ontario would mount an argument that the delay in the judicial system or the expense that is involved in hearing these arguments out at the Ontario Municipal Board or at the Supreme Court is the basis for moving through legislation.

8:10 p.m.

You will recognize, Mr. Chairman, that this is a rather odd position for someone associated with the Attorney General's office or the Solicitor General's office or for anyone who has to do with the enforcement of the law. For the most part, ministers of the crown associated with the law and its enforcement would say that you cannot put a price tag on justice; that the judicial system may be a costly, slow and awkward process but that it is the best process we have to give this all a full hearing; that however awkward it might be from time to time, the basic right of an individual or a group of people or a municipality to have its day in court is the price we have to pay in a democracy.

Oddly enough, the gist of what I read as being his argument is simply that this has gone on too long, that the legal expenses attached to this particular problem are mounting and are getting too high and that, therefore, we ought to discontinue this process and move to a legislative process.

I find that an odd position, one that certainly is not taken by the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), for example, towards the Grange commission, which in a shorter period of time has been much more expensive and which is a judicial process we happen to defend on this side of the House because we think it is important. Awkward though it might be and as ill tempered as many of us get with people in the legal profession, we recognize that it is the system we have and that it is a legitimate system. It might be awkward, it might be long, it might be expensive; it might not be the smoothest, neatest, cleanest way to process, but it is a fair way.

So I have some difficulty with the remarks the Solicitor General has made on several occasions now, including those in a letter to the editor of the Barrie Examiner in which he speaks of "the resolution of the most costly annexation in the history of Ontario." I am not very sure it is, but he certainly is not sparing the language there. I think we should note that the emphasis is on the most costly; not right or wrong, proper or improper, simply the most costly.

I was impressed in the same issue of the Barrie Examiner to read comments put forward by Ben

Straughan, the city administrator for Barrie. I will just quote very briefly from this article, in which he says, "They are not going to be getting city services on July 1, because they will still be paying for rural services."

He goes on at some length to say: "We are not providing in our budget anything in the way of providing services. The city will probably be able to provide fire protection with existing manpower at the fire department, but the police commission has stated that extra personnel will be needed to provide police protection, so the answer would be to let the province continue to police it." He goes on to describe how servicing capacity will be done by septic tank, although the argument was made in committee that at some point things such as big shopping centres will want to have city services.

It raises in my mind the question of why the government is proceeding with an annexation. It is saying specifically that an area adjacent to an urban centre needs to be brought into that urban centre because we need it for planning purposes, because we need it to smooth out the provision of big city services to a rural area; yet when the annexation appears imminent, the other shoe seems to fall, and the city administrator says: "It is going to stay a rural area. We are not going to provide those services." If that is the case, if the intention is to retain the portion of Vespra township that is being annexed by this bill as a rural area, why bother to annex it?

I think it brings out some of the classics of Ontario politics. If you look at all the players in this little bargain, the first winner off the mark is a big development company, Cadillac Fairview, which happens to be represented by a gentleman by the name of Fast Eddie Goodman. It gets exactly what it wanted, and it has had it since the day before this bill was introduced.

It had permission to expand that mall. The objection by the city of Barrie was withdrawn so, with respect to priority, the development company, represented by Fast Eddie Goodman—a very prominent member of the legal profession—got exactly what it wanted without a word of legislation before this House. That is an interesting priority to have a government display for us to see.

Second, it would appear that the city of Barrie, having a larger population than the township of Vespra, is generally headed in the direction it wants, though, for the life of me, I cannot understand that process. If I were on the Barrie council right now, I would want answers to some hard-core questions. I would want to know, for

example—I think I would know if I lived in the area—that most of the land that is proposed to be annexed to Barrie is already in the hands of developers; if it is not owned outright, then it is at least optioned by developers. That would tell me that this group of people is going to be hammering at my council door saying, "Give me planning approvals, provide me with services; and when that population hits, I want schools, I want libraries, I want recreation facilities." All those expensive items are here in the foreseeable future.

I would want to know all the financial implications for the city of Barrie. Right now, as we are moving into the final stages of this particular piece of legislation, I would like to know who is going to pay what to whom. It seems to me if the financial side of this arrangement were put together, we would be able to say, "I know what my financial responsibilities are." The province, the county of Simcoe, Vespra and Barrie would be able to say that. Private developers would know where they are going.

The truth is there has been no resolution of that at this time. To my knowledge, there has been one meeting called in a rather bizarre way by the Solicitor General at Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology where it was mentioned that some financial obligations would be picked up. However, as of this time, none of the players knows what his financial obligations will be.

This can be costly. The township of Vespra has already put on record that it would think a fair settlement to be in the neighbourhood of \$10 million. This sounds like a lot of money and it is a lot of money. However, in the world of municipal finance, there are a lot of financial obligations trading back and forth here.

One thing which is important to get on the record is that one would think, listening to the parliamentary assistant and perhaps to the Solicitor General, that everyone in the area thinks this is the fair way to proceed; that this bill, which has gone through second reading and some committee work and which is now here before us tonight for clause-by-clause debate, represents some kind of consensus; that the parties bargained their way through a series of public hearings and that this bill is kind of fair, reasonable and seen to be so by all sides.

I want to take a minute to read a motion received in my office yesterday. It is from the county council in Simcoe county. It moves:

"We notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Claude Bennett,

that we do not accept the government's interpretation of events and that justification for Bill 142 as set out in the minister's letter of March 12, 1984.

"Further, we again call upon the provincial government to withdraw Bill 142 on the grounds that such legislation is dictatorial, undemocratic, contrary to the wishes of the people, contrary to the greatest common good, unjustified and recognized as being a dangerous and unprecedented threat to rural municipalities and to the county system."

This is a remarkable motion to have been passed by the county of Simcoe on May 15, 1984. I want to remind the House that Simcoe County is not a hotbed of socialism. It is not exactly the rebels forming up around Kempenfelt Bay. It is Tory Ontario; it is mid-Ontario. It is the guts of this government. It is an area which is solidly represented, unfortunately, by the Big Blue Machine.

The members of this county council are hardly revolutionary. Yet their language here is pretty strong. These are people who have gone through this process. They have said: "All right. We are open to argument on this. We are prepared to listen to what you have to say." However, at the end of the process, these are strong words. "Dictatorial," does not sound to me like a piece of legislation which represents a consensus on any matter. It is "undemocratic, contrary to the wishes of the people, contrary to the greatest common good, unjustified and recognized as being a dangerous and unprecedented threat to rural municipalities and to the county system."

These are pretty harsh words from a council I have had the opportunity to meet. In all fairness, I would have to say decent folk of Ontario sit on that county council. They are not radicals; there is not a long hair in the crowd. They are all upstanding citizens, the kind of people one would be proud to associate with. By and large, I would say that mostly one could associate with them at a riding meeting of the Progressive Conservative association.

To have this kind of county council say to this government, in the way of a formal motion of the council, that it thinks this is dead wrong, undemocratic, I think reflects something which should make this government stop and think for a minute. This is what we are here for this evening. We are here to begin the clause-by-clause debate. We are here to see if there is any sober second thought, to see if the government of Ontario will listen to its people.

8:20 p.m.

Late though it might seem to some, I think the opportunity is here this evening for this Legislature to respond to that county council by saying: "Hold it. We were not told this was going to be any of those things. We thought this was just a little annexation bill."

Normally, that is a bill that strives to get some kind of consensus. These are people who, for the most part, are not directly affected by the bill and are looking at it in an objective way. In normal times they are friends of the government, if I may be so bold as to classify them that way. They are saying very strong things about this legislation and its intent, about how it wound up and the process at work here.

I think this government has a responsibility to its own supporters, not to me certainly, to say: "We will put on the brakes then. This is an idea that has clearly gone bad. This is a process that is not going to work. This is something that is going to get the government of Ontario into hot water with its friends. It is something that should be stopped dead in its tracks."

I am waiting for some response on the part of the government. My experience in committee was that there was no response on the part of the government. The member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) chaired the committee, and it seemed to me during the process that he bent over backwards to see that people in the area at least got a chance to be heard. He was somewhat limited in his ability to do that because there were restrictions put on the number of hearing days.

Mr. Martel: We are going to hear him tonight.

Mr. Breaugh: I anticipate we will hear his comments in the clause-by-clause debate. I anticipate that will happen a little later this evening. The Solicitor General will take his turn at bat tonight and will do here in the Legislature what, I am told, he has done in his own riding. The members in that area for Simcoe Centre (Mr. G. W. Taylor) and Simcoe East will have the opportunity to explain to the Legislature what the local consensus is on this annexation.

Mr. Stokes: The member is assuming they are here representing the people who sent them here rather than the government of which they are a part.

The Deputy Chairman: I am assuming the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) has the floor. He is making his debate.

Mr. Stokes: I am well aware of that. I was afraid you were going to fall asleep.

Mr. Breagh: The basic problem here, if the truth were to be let out, is that one minister of the crown decided to take the bull by the horns and designed a solution that is not palatable to most of the rural municipalities in this province.

The local members, Tories all, who sat on the committee or who are aware of the proposal would now say, if they were allowed to: "This is a wrong move, fellows. Let us pack up our little tents and back off on this thing and get out of the way. It is not going to work. It is not working now. It does not seem to be fair. It does not seem to be a consensus document. It is seen to be a ramrod move that will have ramifications in a number of ways for a lengthy period of time."

I anticipate some of the members will have the integrity to participate in this debate as we go through clause-by-clause discussion. I do not anticipate all of them will. I have been around long enough to know that does not happen too often.

The other aspect I wanted to talk about is the larger ramifications of this approach. Members may be aware that the administrator for the township of Vespra has written a piece in *Municipal World* which, from the township's point of view, is dead on. He points out that the annexation process is being used by the government of Ontario as a tool to resolve problems. He goes on, with some insight, to point out the dangers present in doing that.

Dangers are present in trying to resolve an argument that is in some ways legal and in some ways a planning argument and that certainly has bad ramifications for a rural township. Most members who have had even a casual drive through the area will understand very quickly that what is happening is that the guts of the assessment base for the township of Vespra are being removed. That is a cruel thing to do to any municipality, but it can be a deadly blow to a rural municipality.

There is no financial commitment in place to see that something else picks up the slack. We now know that will not happen at all. The city of Barrie may initially have won a theoretical planning argument and may appear on the surface to be quite happy about it. They may be able to take, in the short term, a stand that says, "There is not going to be any difference in that area. We are not going to be rushing in providing services."

Most of those people have been involved in the political process long enough to know this is not going to last. Developers who have options on lands or own land are anxious to make money

from that land. They will be there looking for services as the first wave of a financial onslaught hits the city of Barrie. The second wave of that onslaught will be when the houses are built and the people are living there. Then the municipal council cannot say part of the city of Barrie is rural and therefore it does not get schools, arenas, libraries, water service, roads ploughed and fire and police protection.

When people move into an area and pay property taxes, a natural evolutionary flow comes from that. Once they start paying their taxes, logically they want the services. The municipality cannot tell one group of citizens in a community it is made up of top-flight citizens and will get the rinks, the ball parks and all that, and tell another group in the same city it will not be provided with the services because it is considered rural. That will not wash.

People on the Barrie council and their staff will now begin the process of looking at cost projections and capital budget forecasts that are quite different from what they have now. I was a bit taken aback during the course of the committee hearings when we asked those questions to find no studies of that kind had been done. We asked the ministry to give us some projections on what would happen to little things such as assessment. It turns out no studies have been done in that regard either.

It turns out the only studies that have been done in this area date back to the early 1970s when there was a task force on the Georgian Bay area. Some planning studies went on then. The logical evolutionary process from that is that once big planning areas are defined, work has to be done to get some grasp of the financial implications of it all. Where can the people be placed? What is to be done with them? How are essential services to be provided? How are big capital projects to be put on stream?

Most of us who have served on municipal councils know it does not happen overnight. It is not a casual thing. The Ontario Municipal Board wants to know what the capital five-year forecast is. I would have to say for this portion of what would become the city of Barrie, nobody knows, because no study has ever been done. It is a tragedy in this day and age with municipal economics being so tightly squeezed that this major financial difficulty would be infused on a city such as Barrie. It could cause severe financial problems.

As we go through this, I think we get to the point where we understand this is an ill-thought-out piece of business from the local point of

view. It does not represent a consensus at all, not by a long shot. I notice the parliamentary assistant quoted the reeve of Innisfil township in his opening remarks today. There is a slightly different set of circumstances there. The township was in a rather advantageous position, to put it politely, and did get a financial settlement that was quite in its favour. Some restraints were put on that were quite in its favour.

The reeve's comments stood out. He was the only one who said anything of a very positive nature about the government's approach to this kind of annexation. I noted as I listened to him that he did not say those things specifically about this bill. He talked in general terms about his experiences with the annexation process, not about this piece of legislation. From a local perspective, I think there are severe problems with it. The ramifications in political, economic and sociological terms are going to be immense for some period of time.

I have never seen a rural community as tightly organized as Vespra township. I was impressed. There cannot be two people living in the township who do not have some kind of an association with one another that allows them to be part of the political process in a formal way. What they had to say was impressive.

If one were born and raised in rural Ontario, as I was, one would understand those people and know they do not very often take on their government. They have a lot of respect for the whole process, but they certainly did take it on in this case. They turned out day after day down here at Queen's Park and up in the county council chambers in the local municipality. They put their arguments well from a local perspective and from a provincial perspective. They identified the fact that the nature of this bill is wrong.

8:30 p.m.

There is one other area that has to be put on the record this evening. I want to do it because it is frightfully important. In my experience at the municipal and regional levels or here at Queen's Park, I have never seen an issue which went around Ontario quite like this one. I have never seen anything like it. I have never seen an issue where municipalities which the members would have a hard time placing, unless they happened to be near where they lived or were born and raised, wanted to put their voice on the record as opposing a bill.

For example, the township of Edwardsburgh is not a noted source of revolution, but it points out that Bill 142 is opposed and its passing would deny the normal rights of natural justice. That is

an unusual resolution from that township. It is one this Legislature would be well served to pay some attention to.

The corporation of the township of Osprey also passed a resolution, stating: "The corporation of the township of Osprey deems this method of solution to the annexation problem faced by the township of Vespra as a dangerous and undemocratic precedent; further, that the full formal hearing process should be resumed and followed to completion in order that all parties may present their full arguments as is the normal right of all people in a democratic society."

I bet there are not many motions such as that passed by rural councils these days. They have a lot of very legitimate concerns about farm communities and the provision of services, but one does not often hear them passing resolutions about the democratic process.

The township of Kerns said, "If this annexation is put through for the city of Barrie, are all rural municipalities such as ours subject to the same treatment if a neighbouring town wants what we own?" That is pretty tough stuff.

From the municipality of the township of Hudson: "Are all rural municipalities to expect this treatment? Why does a town or a city want part of a rural municipality? Is it for the tax dollars they can get? In most cases they do not and cannot provide any better services, and the taxes only increase, as we have seen happen in the past. I trust you will be reconsidering passing such a bill as 142."

A representative of the township of Chisholm wrote directly to the Premier as follows:

"Dear Mr. Davis:

"My council has studied the problem of the Barrie-township of Vespra annexation dispute with considerable interest. Albeit this dispute does not directly involve the township of Chisholm, there appear to be some principles involved. It could adversely affect various annexation procedures throughout the province and could conceivably affect my township should an annexation attempt present itself in the future.

"It would appear that the third reading of Bill 142 allows the province to unilaterally arbitrate an annexation dispute without the input of the wishes of the residents involved. It is my feeling and the feeling of my council that this is a dangerous practice and is contrary to the individual's rights of natural justice." That is pretty tough stuff from Chisholm.

This is from South Monaghan. I will not read all this as it is a long one. I will read a portion of it.

It is on the passing of a resolution "expressing opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic or unjustified and/or ignores the will of the people and/or ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need and/or is a method of resolving disputes which denies the party the normal rights of natural justice." They supported that. They said that should not happen, that it is the wrong thing to occur. I do not recall another resolution of that kind from South Monaghan.

From the township of Plummer Additional: "This letter is to let you know that our council is not supportive of Bill 142. On April 5, 1984, resolution 84-50 was passed. The council expressed opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is unjustified. It ignores the will of people. It ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal right of natural justice."

From the township of Stephen, there is a letter on the passing of a resolution "expressing opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic." I will not go on with the rest of it. It supports that resolution. It feels that is a wrong way to proceed. I do not ever remember receiving correspondence from the township of Stephen opposing any bill in the Legislature of Ontario, but it did oppose that one.

From the township of Anderdon: "That we oppose Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic, unjustified and ignores the will of the people, and ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need, and as a method of resolving a dispute which denies the party the normal rights of natural justice."

From the corporation of the township of Ops, there is a letter simply acknowledging it passed a resolution to support the township of Vespra in its opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds it is undemocratic in that it ignores the normal prerequisites for an annexing municipality to establish need.

From the township of Greenock in the county of Bruce: "The council supports the resolution of the township of Vespra regarding annexation of lands and specifically opposes Bill 142 on the grounds that the bill is undemocratic."

From the township of Malden: "It was moved by V. Coyle and seconded by J. Walden that the council of the township of Malden objects to Bill 142 as it represents an example of dangerous precedent-setting and undemocratic legislation, and ignores the normal prerequisite for an

annexing municipality to establish need and as a method of resolving a dispute which denies the party the normal rights of natural justice."

From the township of Yarmouth: "That the council of the corporation of the township of Yarmouth opposes Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic, ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need, and as a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

Mr. Rotenberg: They are all the same.

Mr. Stokes: The member is getting the message.

Mr. Breaugh: The member for Wilson Heights has just expressed a rather sad little wisecrack about the rights of townships in Ontario to say whatever it is they want to say. I suppose he is inferring that in some strange, perverted way these townships are not allowed to use the same words to express the same feelings. I dare say if he had the intestinal fortitude, not to mention the stupidity, to go to each one of these township councils, look them in the eye and ask them what they had to say about Bill 142, he might not be quite so bold in his criticism of the councils' actions.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, if I was invited to those townships, I am sure if they received logical explanations, which they did not get, at least 90 per cent of them would withdraw their resolutions. The member knows they could withdraw the resolutions. They were not given the proper facts and everybody knows it.

Mr. Chairman: The member's time may come. The member for Oshawa will continue with his remarks.

Mr. Stokes: Nobody pulls your chain.

Mr. Breaugh: I cannot let it pass. A parliamentary assistant is in some vague way accusing somebody of lying to all these townships, providing them with misleading information and implying that if his eminent wise self were to appear at the council chambers and explain all this away, there would be a greatly changed attitude on the part of the councils. I do not think there would be.

Mr. Martel: Why do we not move a motion to that effect?

Mr. Chairman: The member for Oshawa is making remarks. He does not need the assistance of the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and others.

Mr. Martel: Why does the member not make a motion to delay passage of the bill until he has that opportunity?

Mr. Breagh: That is an interesting concept.

Mr. Nixon: Get back on track. Start reading more letters.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Breagh: It would be an interesting concept to say the parliamentary assistant has to do a little more than walk down the hall and call on the majority of his friends. Maybe it would be a good exercise for him to go and knock heads out in the townships of Ontario. Maybe he would care to go out there and tell them that they are wrong, that they do not know the facts, that they do not have any right to pass resolutions like this. Maybe he would like to do that. I would be happy to stand this bill down to give him the opportunity to go out there and find out what it is all about. It might be an interesting exercise on his part.

Mr. Martel: Move a motion.

Mr. Rotenberg: Why do you not find out what it is all about?

Mr. Martel: No. You are the one who said it.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Can we skip the politics and come back to the discussion about the bill, please, with all due respect?

Mr. Breagh: From the township of St. Vincent: "That the township of St. Vincent endorses the action being taken by the township of Vespra in their opposition to Bill 42."

That seems pretty straightforward. There is a group of people that has its facts straight and has formed an opinion on the actions of the government of the day.

8:40 p.m.

The corporation of the township of Romney also passed resolution of council number 84521: "The council of the township of Romney expresses grave concern and disapproval towards the unreasonable actions of the Ontario provincial government, which actions are contrary to natural justice and fairness, to impose the arbitrary boundary restructuring on the township of Vespra under Bill 142."

I think I will read the rest of it, because the honourable member seemed so amused that some of the previous wording was so similar. This one is quite unique on its own. Obviously in the township of Romney they like to write things on their own.

"First, with complete disregard for the expressly stated wishes of the majority of the people in the lands to be disrupted and transferred;

"Second, to slap disrespectfully the face of public participation by setting up straw hearings

with the apparent preconceived intention of ignoring this fundamental democratic avenue of input;

"Third, to compel unilaterally the compliance with such transfer without a basis in fact which may have displayed a case for a need to transfer people and land; and

"Fourth, to show partiality to one municipality over another without the benefit of substantiating evidence on the issues."

It seems to me that any member of the council of the corporation of the township of Romney could rip apart the opinions that were voiced this evening by the parliamentary assistant. They do not need anybody's help in writing their resolutions. They did one hell of a job in writing their own.

Here is a resolution from the township of Tudor and Cashel, near Gilmour: "The township of Tudor and Cashel moves to support the appeal of the township of Vespra and resolves that Bill 142 not be passed while it denies the normal rights of justice to the parties concerned." It seems to me that is a pretty straightforward resolution as well.

From the township of Hallowell: "Our council, at its meeting of March 12, 1984, unanimously passed the following resolution: 'That this council unanimously endorse the opposition by the township of Vespra to the annexation proposed by the city of Barrie, specifically when the province proposes, by Bill 142, to legislate the annexation into effect without the consent of the county, the township and the populace.'"

It seems to me they got the gist of the argument there, and they understand what they are doing.

From the corporation of the township of Prince: "The council of the township of Prince has reviewed an article in the Municipal World regarding the proposed annexation of the township of Vespra through Bill 142, which is scheduled to receive third reading in the House in the very near future. I have been requested to advise you that at the regular meeting held on March 13, 1984, the following resolution was passed:

"That the council of the township of Prince express its opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified, ignores the will of the people, ignores the normal prerequisites for an annexing municipality to establish need as a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

These are words the parliamentary assistant does not like to hear, I know, but they are words which that council wanted to put on the record.

From the township of Faraday: "That the council of the township of Faraday expresses opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need, and it denies the taxpayers their rights of natural justice."

Interjection.

Mr. Breagh: Does that member have a problem with the wording of the motion?

Mr. Chairman: I wonder if the chair may just inquire of the member how many of these he has to read into the record.

Mr. Martel: It does not really matter, does it?

Mr. Chairman: May I kindly draw the attention of the member to rule 19(d)(4)–

Mr. Martel: What are you here for?

Mr. Chairman: I am here to help all honourable members. If these are all of the same kind, could the member simply assist us as to whether these are all the same kind of comment?

Mr. McClellan: Where does heckling from the table come under the standing orders?

Mr. Breagh: I do not feel heckled or harassed by the Chairman at all. I think he is just seeking a little help here.

They are all resolutions having to do with the same bill; that is true. They are all resolutions of individual councils, and I want to put them on the record because they took the time at their council meetings to debate this matter. They went out of their way to put resolutions in front of the council. They wrote to me, and I am sure they wrote to the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp). They may even have wasted their time writing to the mysterious member for Wilson Heights, who has disappeared.

When a municipality passes a resolution, I think the Legislature of Ontario has an obligation to hear what it is it has to say. I will try to go through them without a great deal of editorial comment. I simply want to get them on the record.

Mr. Chairman: I remind all honourable members that we went off track very early on when we started back into a debate not unlike that of second reading and the principle of the bill. We have not yet come to what we are here to do in this committee, namely, deal with clause-by-clause.

Mr. Breagh: I admit you may have been misled by the member for Wilson Heights, who began this process.

Mr. Chairman: No. I recall how many minutes he gave to the debate.

Mr. Martel: Just because you are bothering my colleague, I might even call a quorum. There are not enough members. Will you call in the members?

Mr. Chairman: We will play on the rules in a moment.

Mr. Martel: We will play now. There are not 20 members.

Mr. Chairman ordered the bells to be rung.

8:50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: A quorum is present. The member for Oshawa had the floor.

Mr. Breagh: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Stokes: Before you were rudely interrupted, what were you saying?

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, from the township of Mara, near Brechin: "The council of the township of Mara supports the council of the township of Vespra in opposing the Ontario government's legislation, Bill 142, with respect to lands being transferred from one municipality to another. This authoritative transfer represents a precedent which is seen to be damaging to all municipalities in the province of Ontario."

From the township of Sandwich South comes the following resolution that was passed. It was moved by Murray Oliver, seconded by Harold Maenpaa, "That the council expresses opposition to Bill 142, and the township of Vespra be so advised, as well as appropriate authorities."

From the corporation of the townships of Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie and McKay, near Deep River: "Dear Mr. Breagh: We wish to advise you that the council of the townships of Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie and McKay have supported the resolution from the Vespra township regarding annexation."

From the township of Foley: "We object to the passing of Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic, unjustified and ignores the will of the people, and ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need, and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the party the normal rights of natural justice."

From the township of Bagot and Blythfield: "That the township of Bagot and Blythfield support the township of Vespra in their opposition to Bill 142."

From the corporation of the township of Murray: "That the council for the corporation of the township of Murray support the principles expressed by the township of Vespra, and that

this municipality indicate its opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it ignores the basic principle in boundary negotiations for establishing a need by an annexing municipality and is an undemocratic and dangerous precedent-setting approach to such problems."

From the township of Zorra: "The council views with alarm the implications of the imposition of a forced annexation in this manner. Council concurs the measures proposed under Bill 142 set a dangerous precedent with far-ranging ramifications. Council believes your concerns with respect to the loss of the normal rights of natural justice are well founded and should be a concern of every resident within the province of Ontario."

There is one little bit on the end: "Council will be viewing the outcome of this issue with a high degree of interest and wishes you well in your efforts to have Bill 142 negated or thwarted."

From the township of Artemesia: "That this council go on record as being in opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified and ignores the will of the people."

From the corporation of the township of Ellice: "Please be advised that the council of the township of Ellice passed a resolution on March 15, 1984, opposing Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified and ignores the will of the people, and ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need, and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

From the corporation of the township of Downie: "That the council of the township of Downie endorse the concerns of Vespra township regarding Bill 142."

From the township of Amabel: "This is to certify that the attached is a true copy of resolution R 43-84, which was passed by the council of the corporation of the township of Amabel on March 13, 1984." This is a bit of a lengthy one: "...oppose the passing of a resolution expressing opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified, ignores the will of the people and ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need, and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the party the normal rights of natural justice." That is endorsed by the township of Amabel.

This is from the township of Raleigh, which is to go on record as being opposed to Bill 142, on the grounds that "the bill is undemocratic, unjustified, ignores the normal prerequisite for

annexing a municipality to establish need, and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

The township of Norwich: "Regarding the correspondence from Harry B. Adams, the reeve of Vespra township, re Bill 42, be advised that the municipality of the township of Norwich supports this motion as presented and all the steps stated by Mr. Adams be carried out by the office staff."

It is quite remarkable to have one rural municipality agree to that extent with another rural municipality. As you know, Mr. Chairman, they are often very independent in nature and like to do things their own way.

This is from the township of North Hims-
worth: "The council of the corporation of North Himsworth supports the resolution passed by the township of Vespra and also opposes Bill 142."

From the township of London: "Please be advised that the township of London council, by a resolution, at its meeting of March 19, 1984, has expressed opposition to Bill 142 as this procedure will ignore the will of the people and also the normal prerequisite for annexing a municipality due to established needs. The council therefore requests the province to reconsider this procedure in dealing with annexation between local municipalities."

Mr. Martel: Besides Eddie Goodman, does anybody support this?

Mr. Breaugh: It is difficult to find people other than Fast Eddie.

It is interesting to note the interjection. Fast Eddie Goodman does not care one way or the other. Fast Eddie got for his friends at Cadillac Fairview exactly what they wanted the day before this legislation was introduced to the House. I suspect he does not have any concerns about the financial future of the city of Barrie, the township of Vespra or any of the cities. He got for his corporate clients exactly what they wanted, and that is the way the game is played.

Mr. Nixon: Who is Eddie Goodman's client?

Mr. Breaugh: Cadillac Fairview. The member might have heard of it. It owns a few little pieces of property.

Mr. Nixon: Oh yes.

Mr. Breaugh: This is from the corporation of the township of the Spanish River: "We support the township of Vespra's concern regarding government interference in the annexation process."

This is from the township of Cockburn Island: "We support the township of Vespra re their

concern for Bill 142." I will anxiously await the contribution by the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane). I know he is generally supportive of the work done by the township of Cockburn Island and all those municipalities within his jurisdiction.

This is the resolution from the corporation of the township of Val Rita-Harty: "That we support the request of the township of Vespra concerning the amalgamation and that the authorities concerned be notified."

This is from the township of Cornwall: "The council opposes Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic, unjustified, ignores the will of the people, does not require the annexing of the municipality to show need and denies natural justice to the municipality being annexed."

The township of Essa: "Be it resolved that letter No. 8 from Vespra be received and further that the council of the township of Essa opposes Bill 142 on the following grounds: that it is undemocratic and unjustified, that it ignores the will of the people and the normal prerequisite for the annexing of a municipality in that it failed to establish a need and that it is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

The municipality of Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional passed the following resolution, 42-84: "That council is strongly opposed to Bill 142, the annexation of the township of Vespra, on the grounds that it is unjustified, ignores the will of the people and the normal prerequisite for annexing a municipality to establish need and denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

This is from the township of Colchester North: "Please be advised that council supports the township of Vespra in opposing Bill 142, legislating a provincial solution to the Barrie-Vespra annexation, since we have a Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act outlining the procedure to handle municipal boundary disputes."

This one is a little closer to home. If the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor) were here tonight, he would know very well the position taken by the township of North Fredericksburgh: "The council for the township of North Fredericksburgh expresses their opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified. It ignores the will of the people and it also ignores the prerequisite for annexing a municipality to establish need and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

9 p.m.

In this supposedly bicentennial year, when we are told constantly, every day, to listen to the traditions of the United Empire Loyalists, there we are. From North Fredericksburgh, their ancestors are talking to this Legislature tonight and the question is, "Is the Legislature listening?"

From the township of South Dumfries: "This council supports the stand—"

Mr. Martel: South Dumfries.

Mr. Breagh: At least we get some of the members to wake up when we mention something a little close to home.

"This council supports the stand of the township of Vespra pertaining to Bill 142 pertaining to annexation."

Mr. Stokes: I wonder where their member stands.

Mr. Breagh: I am putting on the record now exactly where these townships stand. The next thing to get on the record is where the local member stands. I am just giving an opportunity so the members will know—

Mr. Nixon: We have been waiting to speak on clause 1(a).

Mr. Breagh: From the corporation of the township of Thurlow: "The council concurs with the stand of the township of Vespra because they feel that Bill 142 is undemocratic and unjustified, ignores the will of the people and ignores the normal prerequisites for an annexing municipality to establish need and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

From the municipality of the township of Leeds and Lansdowne, resolution 113, 1983-84: "We support a request of the township of Vespra and express our opposition to Bill 142 on the basis that its passage does not comply with the prerequisite that the annexing municipality establish need for the land to be annexed, and that the review of Bill 142 by the standing committee on general government does not provide a fair opportunity for those opposing the annexation to be heard."

I know the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) will be very interested.

From the united townships of Bangor, Wicklow and McClure: "The council of the corporation of the united townships of Bangor, Wicklow and McClure concur with the township of Vespra and the problems they are incurring with annexation, especially the proposed passing of Bill 142 which seems to be very undemocratic

and is totally ignoring the will of the local ratepayers, and is denying the parties involved the normal rights of natural justice. Council feel the passing of Bill 142 represents an example of dangerous precedent-setting legislation and that it should proceed no further."

From the municipality of the township of Armour: "That we send a letter to the township of Vespra indicating our support in their objections to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified."

As one goes through these resolutions and has the opportunity to read them, it is interesting to see that each of the townships in its own way functions a little differently. However, in a very real sense, all the townships are saying the same thing.

From the township of Pittsburgh, Ontario: "Council of the township of Pittsburgh opposes Bill 142 on the grounds that it ignores the normal prerequisites for an annexing municipality to establish need. Furthermore, council feels that the bill is unjust."

From the municipal corporation of the township of Dungannon: "We support the letter as circulated by the township of Vespra stating their opposition to Bill 142 as we feel this bill is undemocratic and it ignores the will of the people in the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need."

From the township of Seymour: "Whereas upon reviewing Bill 142, council feels that Bill 142 represents an example of dangerous precedent-setting and undemocratic legislation: Therefore, be it resolved that council hereby endorse the letter from the municipality of Vespra and join with them in expressing opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic, unjustified, ignores the will of the people, ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need, and is a method for resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

From the township of Tilbury East: "After reading the article in the February 1984 Municipal World concerning Bill 142, Barrie-Vespra Annexation Act, the municipal council of the township of Tilbury East passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on March 26, 1984: 'Be it resolved that the municipal council of the township of Tilbury East hereby expresses its opposition to Bill 142 in its present form as it appears to be undemocratic legislation, giving the province the power to overrule the wishes of the people and denying them the normal right to natural justice.'"

From the municipality of the township of North Algona: "That the council of the township of North Algona oppose Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified and ignores the will of the people. It ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the party the normal rights of natural justice."

From the township of Enniskillen: "This is to advise that the council of the township of Enniskillen received Vespra township reeve Harry Adams's letter enlisting support for his township's opposition to Bill 142, a bill that Vespra township considers undemocratic because it ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need. Eniskillen council, at its meeting of March 20, 1984, passed a resolution to lend its moral support to the township of Vespra by expressing its opposition to Bill 142 based on the fact that such legislation appears to be undemocratic by ignoring the will of the people and the normal prerequisite of an annexing municipality to establish need."

From the township of Mornington: "The implications of Bill 142 have been drawn to the attention of the council of the township of Mornington by the reeve of the township of Vespra and the matter was considered at a recent meeting of council. Council has asked me to write to you and advise that they support the position of the township of Vespra in opposing Bill 142."

From the township of Perry: "The council for the township of Perry has recently been made aware of the series of events over the past several years leading up to the above-mentioned bill, Bill 142, which has had second reading in the House. As you are aware, the passage of this bill will lead to the annexation of certain lands from the township of Vespra to the city of Barrie.

"The council for our township has directed me to write to you to express our opposition to this proposed annexation and the methods under which the captioned bill ended up before the House. Our council feels that this bill is, in fact, undemocratic and indeed ignores the will of the people. It is our hope that this bill will be reconsidered before it is too late and that the voices of the people will be heard and listened to." The voices of the people are not always heard, comrade, but in this Legislature we hope they will be heard.

From the township of Oakland: "That the council of the township of Oakland opposes Bill

142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified and ignores the will of the people. It ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the party the normal rights of natural justice."

From the corporation of the township of the North Shore: "Resolve that the council of the township of the North Shore express opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified and ignores the will of the people and ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

From the township of McNab: "At their meeting of March 20, 1984, a resolution was passed by the McNab township council to support the council of the township of Vespra in their opposition to the passage of Bill 142 concerning the annexation of part of Vespra by the city of Barrie. McNab township council is very aware of the threat that annexation poses to a rural municipality and trusts that the province will ensure that the rights of natural justice are given to any municipality involved in a boundary dispute issue."

The corporation of the township of Sarnia: "The correspondence from the township of Vespra re: annexation Bill 142 be noted and that the local MPP—in case members are in doubt, I believe the local MPP is the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) who happened to sit on part of the committee proceedings—"should be informed that the province should follow the procedure laid down by the legal system and that it is inappropriate to use legislative power in the Vespra case and that opposition parties be informed of the support of the Sarnia township for the Vespra position as outlined in the Municipal World article by Julian Tofts, clerk-administrator of Vespra township."

From the township of Turnberry, near Bluevale: "We express opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified and ignores the will of the people, and ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need, and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the party the normal rights of natural justice."

From the municipality of the township of Chapleau: "That the council of the corporation of the township of Chapleau expresses its opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and unjustified and ignores the will of the people, and ignores the normal prerequi-

site for an annexing municipality to establish need, and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

Here is one from the township of Usborne: "That the council of the township of Usborne do want to go on record as opposing Bill 142, because of its lack of adherence to the true democratic system on which this country was based.

"We of the township of Usborne do think you and yours should listen to the people. After all, it was the people who elected you. Please do not let your true sense of justice become clouded by some report from a panel or singular civil servant who wishes to force their or his or her opinion on to the governing body of this province which neglects to observe the right of the people involved."

Mr. Stokes: Who is that addressed to?

Mr. Breaugh: It is addressed to the Premier himself. It would be interesting to see the response from the Premier.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman. I think we should have some more Conservative members in here since it is their bill. Would you call a quorum?

Mr. Chairman ordered the bells to be rung.

9:16 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: Would the member for Oshawa summarize and then proceed with the rest of his presentation.

Mr. Stokes: That is what he is doing. Honourable members are lucky he is not reading it all.

Mr. Breaugh: I had some requests from some members opposite who were out of the chamber when I began. Some members want to make sure the resolutions of their townships get on the record tonight, and some of them want me to read them again.

Mr. Havrot: He is not supposed to read them, though.

The Deputy Chairman: The other aspect to this whole marvellous discussion on Bill 142 is that we can go through it section by section, and we seem to be still dealing with the generalities of second reading debate.

Mr. Stokes: The parliamentary assistant started it.

Mr. Martel: You had better take a look now. Do not get yourself into trouble.

The Deputy Chairman: I am willing to do anything I can to help.

Mr. Breagh: Some of them are awake now. Interjections.

Mr. Stokes: If the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) wants to interject, he should go back to his own seat.

Mr. Bradley: All you do is move your lips over there.

Mr. Breagh: Some of these members have not been awake after nine o'clock at night for a long time. All hell could break loose here tonight.

I think we have settled down. Maybe not.

Mr. Stokes: I think they are just euphoric because the Blue Jays are beating the Tigers.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The member for Oshawa.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, if you would not interject, we would not have these outbursts.

The Deputy Chairman: I know. It is probably all the readings you have been giving.

Mr. Stokes: Maybe you could busy yourself making sure the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) could have his seat.

Mr. Breagh: Yes. A member should not be locked out of his seat by some interloper.

The Deputy Chairman: If the member for Oshawa would proceed.

Mr. Breagh: I am trying to. There is such great disruption and disarray on the government side this evening.

From the township of South Crosby:

"Whereas Bill 142 deals with the annexation issues by specific legislation;

"Whereas Bill 142 is scheduled for third reading by the House in the very near future;

"And whereas the council of the corporation of the township of South Crosby feels that Bill 142 represents an example of dangerous precedent-setting and undemocratic legislation;

"Therefore the council of the corporation of the township of South Crosby opposes Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic, unjustified, ignores the will of the people and ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish needs, and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

Mr. Boudria: What is the score so far? Over 100 against and zero for?

Mr. Breagh: Those members who are keeping count here will have an easy count if they are counting those townships in Ontario supporting this bill and perhaps a little more difficult one

if they are counting the number of townships opposed to it.

From the township of Horton: "At the April meeting of the Horton council a resolution was passed expressing opposition to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic, ignores the will of the people, ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need and is a method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

From the corporation of the township of Oliver a resolution was recorded whereby: "The Oliver municipal council opposes Bill 142 on the grounds that it is method of resolving a dispute which denies the parties the normal rights of natural justice."

From the township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional: "The council objects on the grounds that it ignores the normal prerequisite for an annexing municipality to establish need and that it appears undemocratic, trusting our objection will cause the bill to be delayed until all those wishing to be heard in the township of Vespra have been heard and their rights taken into consideration."

From the township of Charlottenburgh: "That the council of the township of Charlottenburgh has reviewed the matter of the Barrie-Vespra annexation as printed in the February 1984, volume 94, issue of Municipal World. The council wishes to state their support of the council of the township of Vespra."

This is their resolution: "That the council of the township of Charlottenburgh supports the township of Vespra and objects to Bill 142 on the grounds that it is undemocratic and is unjustified and that it appears to ignore the will of the people."

From the township of Portland: "That the council of the corporation of the township of Portland has passed a resolution opposing Bill 142 because it is undemocratic and a gross injustice."

The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) appears to have heard the word.

From the township of West Nissouri:

"Please be advised that the council for the corporation of the township of West Nissouri at its regular meeting on March 20, 1984, have passed a resolution that supports the township of Vespra with regard to our opposition to the passage of Bill 142. As a township that adjoins a large urban municipality, our interest in the passage of this bill is, of course, of the highest concern to the township and its residents.

"We sincerely hope that you will adopt a more understanding approach to the solution of these problems and endeavour to have the parties negotiate a settlement pursuant to the negotiation and resolution of municipal and boundary-related issues in Bill 142."

The Deputy Chairman: If the honourable member could start speaking to the bill section by section, we might be able to proceed.

Mr. Breagh: Yes, I could do that; it is possible. But in this House it is rare that members take direction from the chair on how they speak, on how long they speak or on what they say.

Normally, we will take direction from the chair on the rules of the House, on decorum, on members gossiping while another member is speaking and on members of the cabinet over there gossiping among themselves even though there is only one junior member of the cabinet and one would-be member of the cabinet who never will be.

We will take direction from the chair on all those things, but we do not necessarily take direction from the chair on what we can and cannot say. Normally, odd though it may seem in a democracy, that is seen to be the prerogative of the member. The member may speak to a clause of the bill for as long as he or she chooses to speak to a clause of the bill, and that is what I am doing.

A number of the municipalities on the way through this list have made reference to an article that appeared in a magazine called *Municipal World*. It is called "Annexation—A New Provincial Solution." I think at the very beginning of the clause-by-clause debate this, frankly, is the concern that is being expressed in a number of ways.

I do not believe I had the opportunity to read into the record in this evening's debate all the resolutions from all the townships. I know there are more, and perhaps in future clause-by-clause debates other members will want to put on the record the position taken by their local townships. I am sure they have received correspondence from some townships that I have not. They will be anxious to put those views on the record of the Legislature during the course of the clause-by-clause debate.

I think that is important because members of the Legislature are here to reflect the concerns of a constituency. Many of us who are interested in municipal politics know that sometimes the issue goes a little deeper than it might appear at first blush. People on municipal councils know that sometimes they are at a disadvantage in dealing

with provincial legislation. They will very often hear about it after the fact and that it is somehow related to a resolution passed by one of their organizations or by a council a couple of years ago and it takes a long time to bubble through the system.

In this instance, in large part they were able to speak at some length during the course of their council debates because of this article in *Municipal World*. It is a kind of chronicling of the events around Bill 142.

Mr. Boudria: Summarize it for us.

Mr. Breagh: In *Municipal World* is an account of the background and the history of the dispute, the basic matter being a commercial shopping district and what will happen to it and to the assessment that goes along with it. In my view, it is a fair account of all that surrounds Bill 142 and the directions to resolve the dispute. It makes a reasoned and eloquent case for the use of the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act, which has not been done in this case. It provides an accurate summary of the circumstances surrounding this bill, which in many respects are unfortunate.

It goes on to chronicle the creation of this bill, the impact of the bill on the local municipalities and on the boundaries. I will not quote it at length because I know we are not supposed to read unnecessarily. It goes to the heart of the problem when it spends a bit of its time investigating the need.

I think most of us during the committee kept waiting for someone to address himself or herself to the basic issue at hand, namely, is this good legislation? Is it necessary legislation? Does it do something positive for people? What is the need that was created that will be fulfilled by Bill 142? I will just quote one paragraph from this.

"The compensation may, however, be begging the main questions in relation to this issue. In the first instance, it has always been a prerequisite of annexation that the applying municipality establish a 'need' for the land to be annexed. Vespra representatives do not feel that such a need has ever been established and, indeed, the very introduction of legislation now contravenes that prerequisite because the majority government does not have to produce a reason or need, acceptable or otherwise."

I think that goes to the heart of the problem. Many municipalities understand that boundary disputes are awkward. Somewhere in the course of the debate or the argument around a boundary dispute, somebody has to put on the table why there is a reason for annexation. Someone has to

build a clear, logical case that says this little piece of territory is associated with the wrong form of municipal government and ought to be moved into an urban area or into a suburban area.

Nowhere in the course of all our public hearings on this, in the course of the minister's opening statement or in the course of the debate this evening, where we began the clause-by-clause consideration, did anyone make the case for the need for Bill 142. No one ever bothered to attempt to make that case. The attitude was simply, as Vespra township has put it, a government wants to do something and because—

Mr. Boudria: Claude told them to do it.

Mr. Breagh: This is difficult to say because it is not on the record anywhere else and I am dealing with impressions. I get the impression the government of Ontario does not particularly feel a need to annex any part of Vespra township into the city of Barrie.

9:30 p.m.

Members can reach back into history and pull out some planning studies which indicate that perhaps things would be more desirable if they were aligned in a somewhat different way. Members can find some rather old studies of a sociological nature indicating the province would like population patterns to be distributed in a slightly different way. Members can read some rather vague inclination on the part of various ministers that certain types of industry ought to be reach certain population projections. But nowhere in the presentation of this bill was any of that addressed succinctly or even directly. Nowhere did anybody even bother to establish a need for this bill. Nowhere did anyone put forward any studies, however brief, that said this bill will do good things for anybody.

All of that remains unstated and all of that remains unknown. The truth is that most of the government members opposite do not know why they are doing this to Vespra township. I think that is not an unfair thing to say. The majority of the members opposite even might say this is a particularly dumb thing to do. They might be saying, "Why are we doing this?"

I imagine there have been discussions about this in the Tory caucus. I can imagine the member for Leeds coming in and saying, "I have this resolution from my township council, and they are saying this bill establishes a very unfortunate precedent and is quite wrong." I know the member for Leeds and others over there are not hesitant to put their views on the record. They are prepared to go to their caucus and argue privately, and on occasion, rare though it is, to

voice publicly concerns they have about government policy.

I have never seen it written that it is government policy in Ontario totally to ignore a rural township and in theory to propose an annexation of this kind supposedly because the city of Barrie wants it. If one was at the hearings, he would have to say he did not hear the case for need being put by Barrie. Barrie came before a legislative committee and said it supported the bill. That is a long way from making an argument about need or from saying, "Here are all the studies that show if we get this annexation we will provide these services to this portion of the community and these other services to another." We did not see any long-range plan.

In our discussions with members of the council and their staff, where I attempted to ascertain whether they had given much consideration to this, my impression was that they had not. I felt this was something that was proposed by the Solicitor General for reasons that escape me. I have read his letters to the editor where he attempts to explain. I understand he also did a mailout to his constituency people explaining why he was in support of Bill 142. However, nowhere in all of that mailing was there an explanation of why the Solicitor General was spearheading a drive to put forward a municipal bill.

Perhaps there is an explanation in there for the rather strange actions of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Normal procedure would be that the minister would introduce legislation such as this and that he would in some way track the legislation. I understand ministers do not always spend their time in committees these days. Parliamentary assistants, when they are not travelling the world, spend some time marshalling bills through committee.

But somewhere one would have thought the minister would resurface. For example, when the bill was brought back into the House today, one would have thought it would be the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing who would say: "Here is my bill. I want to associate my name with the intentions behind this piece of legislation." He did not do that. I know he was here today. I saw him in his place during question period and I understand he attended a little reception for some visitors from France. However, he did not find the time to make his way back in here to see that his legislation was properly presented to the Legislature.

I find it strange that the minister responsible puts such a long distance between himself and

this legislation. I find it more than strange that the visible minister is one who happens to live in the area but is not responsible for the bill. We invited him to participate on second reading of the debate and he did—slightly. But I think one would be hard pressed to say that in the course of the second reading debate the Solicitor General did much more than defend his right as a member to say something. He certainly did not provide the Legislature with a rationale for proceeding with this annexation. He certainly did not answer any of the questions about financial obligations. He certainly did not answer any of the questions about the ramifications of all of this.

I am left with the conclusion that we have in front of us this evening a bill that is strange in nature. It is strange in nature because in the normal process in the case of an annexation one of the municipalities would have decided it needed a particular piece of turf and it would request the minister to put it over to the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act.

In previous days it might have requested the minister to put forward legislation providing for the annexation. Then the obligation would be on that party to come before a committee of the Legislature and explain the need, tell us all the reasons this legislation should be passed, tell us all the plans it had to provide services to those citizens, fill in all the blank spaces that would show us things are not going to go right unless this annexation proceeds.

Failing that, one would think, if the minister chose to present the bill, the obligation would then fall upon the minister to provide us with those answers. None of that has happened. It is an interesting exercise when a bill goes to committee here. In my experience, for the most part the members are very anxious to see that the public has a chance to present its point of view. I must say it was with great concern and considerable finagling that an attempt was made by me and others on the committee to travel to the area to have a public hearing there.

The member for Simcoe East chaired the committee. He went out of his way to point out that it would be a good idea, and it was, to take the members of the committee to the area. We travelled to the area and spent about a day and a half travelling the boundaries and looking at the different situations that were at odds there. We looked at the shopping centre and we looked at Little Lake. We looked at the kind of development in Vespra township and we looked at the lands that were owned by developers and that would be right for development.

Basically, we reconnoitred the area. We got a good briefing from some staff people and from the member for Simcoe East, who is very knowledgeable about the area, where he served on the township council and county council. He filled us in on the local background. It seemed to me it would be quite natural, and the committee would be anxious, to go somewhere off into Simcoe county and hold hearings. It might not have been a good idea to go into Vespra township or the city of Barrie and set up shop there, but we found what seemed to be an obvious place to hold the hearings in the county council chamber.

There was great reluctance on the part of the majority of members of the committee to do that. A rather facetious argument was put up that, although by motion of the House we were allowed to travel to the area, and we had already done that, we had established the precedent ourselves. There was a kind of facetious procedural argument, a smokescreen, put up for a few days which said: "You cannot go up there. The Legislature did not order you to go up there. It is not possible for a committee of the Legislature to visit and hold public hearings outside Queen's Park."

All of that, of course, is utter and total nonsense. A few days later it was pointed out to be utter and total nonsense when the chairman came in and said: "I guess we can go up there for a day. We will do it in an evening and we will hear what they have to say." We did get to that point. We got through the hearing stage rather nicely. It was a positive experience for most people here.

I would generalize a bit and say the presentations before the committee were often presented with a good deal of fervour, but they were respectable presentations. Nobody was there to rabble-rouse. Nobody was there to call people names. The citizens were there to present their case to what they thought was a legislative committee that would hear them in fairness.

9:40 p.m.

I think what shocked some of the people who made a presentation to the committee was that they had obviously been to county council and to township council before that, and when citizens' groups do that they are conditioned to the idea that if one goes before a committee of a council and presents a legitimate argument the council will not only listen, but also will actually hear what they have to say and respond to it in legislative terms. It will do what is a reasonable thing to do.

Some of them talked to me afterwards and said they were a bit confused, because they even heard members of the government party agreeing that the points they made were reasonable. They even heard members of the government party saying: "We want to give you folks a fair hearing. We want to see you get a fair shake here. We want to see that this boundary makes some sense. We want to see that the responsibilities delegated to each of the municipalities are logical."

In the end that did not happen. Although they nodded wisely at the appropriate moment, some members even saying on one occasion, "We believe in the right of the people to be heard," a few minutes later they voted not to provide an occasion when people could be heard. These citizens were confused, and I think with good reason.

We spent the majority of our time going through the public hearing process. I believe we spent the last two days—if not two, perhaps three days—actually going through clause by clause in committee. Some strange things happened. The government presented a bill in the last session, and we had an opportunity to debate it in committee. We held a set of public hearings on a bill.

Then after the public had gone, after the committee decided to go at it clause by clause, all of a sudden the bill changed shape; different things were yanked out. We were literally sitting in the committee room over here with maps pasted together and civil servants drawing little squiggly lines on maps and someone saying: "I do not want it there. I will just move it over here." So another little squiggle was drawn.

At the end of this whole process, nobody on the committee knew what the hell map we were looking at. The truth is that nobody knows it now. What we have added to this bill is what should have been put in at the committee stage. I pointed that out to the chairman of the committee. I said: "We are going to have a little problem here, because you cannot pass legislation by drawing little squiggly lines on a map. You have to have a more legal definition."

We finally got it to the point where at least there was a hope of some measure of understanding among the committee members as to exactly where the line would go. I found out subsequently that at a meeting in the area, the minister announced—I have to correct myself here. Normally when I say "the minister," I mean the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, who is responsible for the bill. In this case when I say "the minister," I mean the Solicitor General,

because he is the only minister we ever see sticking his snoot through the door with this bill in his hand.

The Solicitor General announced the boundary had been changed. We are faced with the unusual situation of a bill having been debated on second reading in one form and having gone through the whole committee for hearings and clause-by-clause in another form and the minister feeling quite free to change the very boundary that is the heart of argument. The minister felt free to take it out and almost on a whim, it seems, to change it.

I recall saying in the little windup in the course of our committee hearings on it: "You really cannot do this. You would be better off to state a general intention of putting in the exact legal definitions of the boundary at a later date and acknowledge that." The parliamentary assistant insisted that was the way they were going to do it. The bill was not even printed when they had a subsequent change in place and announced publicly.

I raise this little point with the Chairman because it is unusual. Usually the ministers around here at least do the courtesy of presenting this stuff to the members of the Legislature. It is a bit unusual to see the government changing its policy on a total whim, which is what it did.

I suppose when we get to that portion of the bill dealing with the boundary itself, we may get an explanation of what the hell is going on here. I have to say tonight I do not know. I am not sure whether this is the boundary they mean as opposed to the boundary they proposed in December 1983 or the boundary on which we held a set of hearings or, as a kind of juxtaposition up against the boundary, that final squiggly little line I saw in room 228.

It is a strange piece of business that the actual mechanics of this bill were put together in less than two days' time after a set of public hearings on the bill. If I were a member of the public in Vespra township, I might be a little upset about that. I might be saying to my local member: "What do you mean having a series of public hearings on a bill that changes shape and form after you have presented it? What do you mean by that? Does it not give some redress here? Should we not have another kick at the cat? Should there not be an opportunity for us to discuss the real bill, the one you really intended, instead of the one you presented to the Legislature last year?"

It seems to me they would have a legitimate argument about that. They will not have a chance if things stay as they are now. What galls me

most is that there is an aura of arrogance through all this.

Mr. Hennessy: Ho, ho. Look who is talking.

Mr. Breagh: The member for Fort William gave one of his wisest speeches there. He just said, "Ho, ho." That is one of his best and more eloquent speeches.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Robinson): The member will ignore the interjection and continue with his remarks.

Mr. Breagh: There seems to be more speeches going on in the back benches over there.

To get back to my point, there is a measure of unfortunate arrogance flowing through this bill. It is unfortunate because it may not even be intended. That is the worst kind of arrogance. It is one thing to be full of bravado when one knows what one wants. However, among the members of the government party who sat on the committee, I sensed a real and sincere kind of purpose for holding the hearings.

It seemed to me that several senior members spent a good deal of effort in the committee trying to see that people had a chance to be heard, including the great member for Lambton, who had a distinguished career in a certain sense around this House as Minister of Agriculture and Food and who is someone interested in rural Ontario.

The sad part is that although they were prepared to sit in front of people when they spoke, they seemed not to want to listen to them. That is unfortunate. I am not one to cast aspersions on other members, and I really do not want to say they did so with malice aforethought.

It struck me that most of the members of the committee did not know why they were there. They were put on the committee because members get put on a committee when a bill goes out around here. They made an effort as they went through the hearings to try to pick up on the reason for the bill, why it was being proposed and why it had that particular shape and form.

They could not do it, because nobody was making that argument. Failing that, they fell back on a position where they said, "We should right some of the obvious wrongs in this bill." I think they identified two or three major areas of concern. One was that nobody said anything about need; nobody bothered to make that case.

Second, the financial arrangements were getting a little on the awesome side. I think most of us would look at a bill and say: "The bill is not perfect, but no legislation really is. However, an agreement has been reached among the players,

and in particular a financial agreement, so at least everybody knows what is happening here."

As it now stands, it is almost like buying a car without knowing the price of the car. One may be happy to have a big car, but the salesman has not yet bothered to say what the price of the vehicle is. That is tantamount to what is occurring here. None of the parties involved understands what the financial obligations will be should this bill pass.

That is not just an awkward way to proceed; it is a flat-out wrong way to proceed. This bill should not be proceeded with until such time as the players have arrived at a financial agreement of sorts. I am making the argument that it ought to be a financial agreement. If the government stays true to its course, it has an obligation to put on the table now what it thinks the financial obligations of the various players will be.

9:50 p.m.

I noticed the government addressed itself to most of the things one could think of in the bill and deliberately avoided putting on the table what it felt its obligations were. I notice the bill talks about the obligations of the city of Barrie and those of the township of Vespra, but it does not mention even what areas are the obligations of the province, the legislative body that initiated this bill. It is a bill of goods that should not be bought; it is a bill of goods without a price tag.

If you look at the track record of the government, you may ask, "Has it attempted to negotiate?"

Mr. Rotenberg: Yes.

Mr. Breagh: I hear a little yapping from the member for Wilson Heights, who says, "Yes."

Mr. Rotenberg: It is not yapping; it is a statement of fact.

Mr. Breagh: A statement of fact. Yes.

The Acting Chairman: Order, the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Bradley: That was a chihuahua that was running through the House.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Breagh: I did not think it was a chihuahua; I thought it was the member himself rising from the grave over there to say something.

To my knowledge, the extent to which the province went to conclude the financial obligations of all the parties involved was to convene one meeting at Georgian College. I am aware that Vespra and others have made an attempt to find out from ministry staff what the ground rules

would be for deciding the financial obligations of everybody involved, and that has not come to fruition.

In the past I have been involved in forms of boundary disputes. They are not easy things to resolve. I have been involved in the restructuring of my own municipality, and I know that from our own staff's point of view they always said to us: "All this stuff is fine; whatever you people would like to do we will do in some way, shape or form. But the bottom line always has to be that somebody has to pay. Before you go off taking new responsibilities, before you go off asking for a change in boundaries, come back and talk to us a little bit. We will provide you with information about how much it will cost to do this, this and this; then we will propose to you some way it could be paid for by different levels of government."

That is inherent even in section 1 of this bill. The players in the game are identified, and it is assumed, perhaps wrongly, that all the players in this act have a financial obligation: the city, the minister and the township. There is one other player here; there is a county council up there that has influence on this. All four levels of government then will have some financial responsibilities. At this date we do not know what they will be. At this date we do not know who is going to pay which costs. At this date it would be quite wrong to say that those negotiations are under way; we do not know that.

The parliamentary assistant's total contribution to this part of the debate has been a little yap just now, when he said, "Yes."

In a public way what we know is that one meeting was held, and at that meeting no formula, not even a proposal, was presented; there was only a clarification that there are lots of players involved in here and everybody is going to have to pay some money. I think that is the wrong way to proceed with a bill of this nature.

It is a difficult bill; it would be difficult in the best of times. But it does seem to me that the province has not fulfilled its obligation. It has put some minor guarantees in here. It sought in the last little scrambling off in committee to clarify, for example, exactly who will carry out assessment for the pipeline for the last six months of this year.

It maintains the concept that this bill will go into effect on July 1, 1984, and the parties mentioned in section 1 will have a different set of circumstances to deal with. I do not think this bill should proceed past this stage until such time as we have clarified the financial obligations of all

parties concerned. It seems to me that this almost automatically precludes such a starting date for the bill.

We talked on second reading about an implementation date that was much earlier than the one proposed in here. The government seemed adamant that it had to adhere to an earlier starting date. No real reasons were given; it just said, "This is very arbitrary, and we have to do it."

The starting date of July 1 for this legislation was seen by some members of the government party, I am sure, as a major concession. The truth is that the government may have this legislation in place by July 1, but there is no guarantee of that; none in the least.

We have been sitting around doing odds and sods of legislation in here. This is the first occasion since the House returned that Bill 142 has even been presented to the House for its consideration. It is difficult to say the government has given it a high priority.

In less than three weeks' time this Legislature is supposedly going to adjourn for a while for various reasons, some of which are self-evident and some of which are not. This bill may not get called again; we do not know. We know there is a short list of bills the government wants, and if memory serves me correctly, this bill is not one of those.

I do not have a good concept of whether it is intended that this bill proceed, whether we will set aside everything other ministries want to do in order to deal with the annexation of a portion of the township of Vespra by the city of Barrie.

I think there is a misnomer in here. This is not a proposal from the city of Barrie, not by a long shot. It did not carry the bill in committee. It did not provide the prerequisite of need. It did not champion the bill. I think that is a fair comment, because it was not Barrie's initiative that caused this bill to happen. I do not think it was the initiative of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing either. If it was, it sure was a short-lived initiative, because he read one little opening statement and has since been long gone.

It is difficult to determine exactly who took this initiative. Rumours have it the Solicitor General decided some night, somewhere, to take the bull by the horns, so to speak—

Mr. Nixon: He has a lot of political clout, that guy.

Mr. Breaugh: It is his bill and his initiative.

Mr. Nixon: It is going to be kind of slow around here without him.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Breagh: The members are pointing out that this may turn out to be a kind of election issue. One never knows around here. It would be a magnificent election issue.

Mr. Bradley: Are you ready for a point of privilege?

Mr. Breagh: No, not for a little while. I have fought elections that were caused by less significant issues. The last one I caused was in 1977 when I moved to reduce the rent control bill by two per cent. That seemed to be a matter that caused the fall of the government. After we had the election and came back in here, the government proposed my amendment as its policy. We have certainly had elections around less significant issues.

This would be a magnificent election issue because it is an issue all about our democratic process. This is an aberration of the democratic process.

I would like to know whether this bill went through the Tory caucus. I would love to know how a bill of this nature went through a caucus that is composed in large measure of politicians who cut their teeth on rural politics in Ontario. I would like to know how a group of people living in rural Ontario, most of whom came out of county councils and township councils, could have the audacity to sit there and spit on their own traditions and support this kind of legislation.

Even the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen) would not have voted for this kind of manipulation. He cut his teeth on fighting the evil Tory government in Ontario. He was challenged by the evil Tory government in Ontario in the courts and on the streets in his riding. He never would have accepted this. He has since joined the evil Tories in Ontario, and I am not sure whether he has changed his mind on it, but it does bring sharply into focus that members seem to have set aside what they know of the political process.

10 p.m.

There are members opposite who know this is a rotten bill. They know in their hearts it is not going to work and is the wrong way to proceed. They know it would be politically suicidal if people really understood what the Tories in rural Ontario are proposing to do with this kind of legislation. They would use all the language I read into the record previously this evening. They would know and understand that this is undemocratic and the wrong way to proceed.

This bill does not fulfil any of the criteria for annexation that have ever been known to anybody. If they were great free enterprise Tories, they would understand that there is no need for this bill. Cadillac Fairview already has all it wants; it said so in the *Barrie Examiner*, which I read a little while ago.

Cadillac Fairview says: "We are going to proceed with the expansion of our shopping mall, with our own services. Maybe later on, if somebody pumps a sewer up the road, we will hook into it. But for now, we do not need municipal services. We will proceed as is and provide all the services that are necessary."

If the members of the government party are rabid free enterprisers, they do not need this piece of garbage to muck up history. If they are big fans of Cadillac Fairview or worshippers at the shrine of Fast Eddie Goodman, they can genuflect and go home. They have what they want. They do not need them any more.

There is no need to jack around with little Vespra township. The members of the government party should leave them alone and go home. I do not understand for the life of me why they do not simply do that. Are they all tied so firmly to the tail of the Solicitor General that when it wags they will bounce around the stall with him? It is not necessary. Cut it loose. Leave them alone. There is nobody in this province who wants this bill.

I know Barrie has endorsed the legislation in a formal, public way. I had a chance to talk to a few of the Barrie people during the course of the public hearing, and they were a little unnerved that we were asking some questions to which their staff did not have answers. I will be surprised if a year from now the members of the city council of Barrie think this was the right way to proceed. I will be shocked if two years from now there are not great demands for urban services in the annexed area.

We went over the maps in committee, and one of the questions I asked was: "Let us not play funny little games about saving farm land and doing all those features. Let us ask the hard questions. Who owns this property and who has options on it?" The answer was that a number of developers—some were before the committee—own most, if not all, of the annexed land.

Those of us who have sat on municipal councils know that developers do not buy land or put options on land to farm it. They are in the business of putting up houses, shopping centres and industrial plazas. To do that they want hard services. If they do not want them, the people

who occupy those premises thereafter surely do. There is no question that if we make this part of Barrie, we reverse the argument.

If a developer buys some land in a rural township and bangs on council's door, saying, "We would like to put up a subdivision here," the first line of defence in rural Ontario is to say: "We do not have the services to provide that kind of stuff for you. You may have bought a nice farm, and we wish you good luck farming that land. But you did not buy part of a city; you bought part of rural Ontario."

There are all kinds of very valid reasons, from preserving farm land and the provision of services to official plans, why rural municipalities can look a developer straight in the eye and say: "It is a nice farm you bought. We hope you have a good time farming that land. But you cannot develop it."

Nowhere in Ontario is there an official plan in a city where there is a lot of agricultural land. We can point to the experimental farm in Ottawa, and in Oshawa I will show you Windfield Farms and tell you what a magnificent thing it is, but in the middle of a city, if there is a farm, that is potential development land.

I have half a dozen farms left in my riding of Oshawa, and I know that at some point the services will be there. I know that developers have bought the land or have options on it already. I know that they have rough plans for developing that property. I also know that because it is in a city, somebody at some time will want to develop that land; and a city council cannot look them in the eye and say, "You bought a farm in the middle of a city." That is a ludicrous argument.

Essentially, that is what this bill proposes to do: To take part of rural Ontario and attach it to a city. For the life of me, I cannot figure out why the government of Ontario would want to do that. It flies in the face of what this government says in a public way about preserving farm land and about preserving the values of rural Ontario. It also flies in the face of what this government says about good planning. They say that good planning is based on studies that tell us what we ought to do and what we have to do in the foreseeable future. This bill does none of those things.

I am at a loss to explain why this government chooses to hang its fortunes on a bill like this which has been so soundly and thoroughly condemned from one end of the province to another. Every one of those municipal councils—I did not read them all, but I hope I read a good

share of them—shares the concern of the township of Vespra's council.

They understand it is not just a piece of turf at risk, but that we may well be establishing a precedent, a model for annexation which is clearly and purely wrong. That was said in committee a number of times in a number of ways by prominent lawyers, ordinary citizens and members of different councils who appeared before the committee. I do not know why the government feels it has this single mind at work in there saying, "This bill has to go through," and refuses to divulge the reasons why the bill must proceed.

We have not heard that yet. We do not know why the government wants to proceed with this bill. We do not know the real purpose. It leaves one hanging there with the feeling there is a hidden agenda around all of this. For the life of me I cannot figure out what it is. Originally I thought it was the usual influence of large developers, such as Cadillac Fairview, on a government that is kind of pro-development, so to speak. Then on analysis, I found Cadillac Fairview does not need this. Originally I thought we would hear an eloquent plea put forward by the city of Barrie, but I did not hear that at all.

I did hear a rational argument put forward by the township of Vespra, but the government steadfastly ignores that argument. Quite frankly, it has ignored the arguments—along the same lines I admit—put by every one of those townships so far. The government does not want to talk to the council of the township of Vespra, and it does not want to address itself to the concerns raised by people at the public hearing or by opposition members here in the course of this debate this evening, but this government has an obligation to respond to those people on township councils from one end of Ontario to the other. It has an obligation to address itself to the concerns raised in all that correspondence.

The parliamentary assistant had his little chuckles for the evening, guffawing about the language used in the resolutions. I would put it to you, Mr. Chairman, that people in township councils across the province are not going to enjoy that kind of attitude toward the words they have put in. I suppose if he were reading the correspondence, he would have the odd guffaw that not all the resolutions from the councils are typewritten, that some are handwritten. He might even have the odd guffaw on the notion there is the occasional typographical error in a resolution.

He may not understand that many of our municipalities do not have flunkies to run out and type things up. If one is on a council and wants to propose a resolution, one writes it out. It is as simple as that. It is not like the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing where the parliamentary assistant, exercising what feeble powers he has, actually has the power to demand a civil servant to type out his ill-phrased words and to demand someone else, from the clerk's office probably, to go and run off those ill-framed words so all the members of committee can read them.

Maybe he does not understand that in many of our townships in Ontario the councils sit one or two nights a week and may or may not have somebody who works full-time for them. It is reasonably common for them to have someone who works part-time. They do not have all of the schemers and dreamers around. They do not have public relations people out there reacting to public opinion polls and devising new advertising campaigns, telling them how wonderful things are in South Dumfries or wherever that council is presiding. By and large, they do the work of that council on their own.

There is still an element in the province where people who are elected to public office not only have to discharge their responsibilities, but have to do other jobs as well. For example, they have to take the minutes of the committee meeting. They have to word the resolutions themselves. They do not have staff around to do that. They have to debate and discuss issues without a great deal of research or public opinion polls or anything.

10:10 p.m.

This is democracy in a slightly different form than is practised here at Queen's Park. These are people who have to face their constituents every day of their political lives. They are accountable in a slightly different way than are members of the Legislature. They do not commission polls; they do respond to people who stop them on the street and ask: "What are you doing about this? Why are you not resolving this problem?" So he may not understand what all of this is about.

I sensed in some of the little, not too funny, offhand remarks he made during the course of the debate this evening that he does not have much respect for this process at work in rural Ontario. I sensed that he lacks a basic understanding of what life is all about on a rural council. Perhaps coming from the riding of Wilson Heights in the city of Toronto—

Mr. McClellan: Wilson Heights is not in the city of Toronto.

Mr. Breaugh: Oh, Metropolitan Toronto. I apologize to the city of Toronto for that.

In Metropolitan Toronto, politics is somewhat different. In some ways it is a little cruder and in other ways it is a little more sophisticated than life on a council in a township. But I think there is much to be said about those township councils. I was impressed by the correspondence I received from every one of them. It seemed to me they understood the plight of the township of Vespra and what the argument was all about. More important, it seemed they understood the importance of this argument to our political system because this bill is tantamount to a government gone crazy.

When we come right down to it, probably most of the members on the government side do not want anything to do with it. I have not heard the member for Leeds or the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard) stand up and say:

"We should ignore totally what the people in Vespra township want. There is no need to provide a rationale here for this bill to proceed. We are the government; we want to do it. Somebody in our midst proposed it and we are all on side with it and we are all, like good little soldiers, going to stand up at the right time and vote for this bill."

I do not think there are very many members over there who really think that way. Yet it seems to me from the course of the debate and by the nature of the bill itself, a lot of government members are going to vote for something they know is fundamentally flawed and wrong—and, more than that, stupid. They might vote for some wrong things from time to time, but there are not many members on that side who would pride themselves on voting for stupidity. It seems to me that is exactly what they are doing with this bill.

There is not a leg to stand on, in my opinion, for proceeding with this bill. It seems to me that the townships, one after another, have responded in their own way and this government has an obligation to listen to that response. It has an obligation to show a little bit of respect, for one thing.

Maybe the parliamentary assistant, when he resumes his participation in this debate this evening, will share with us the government's response to these letters from the various townships. I know a number of them have written directly to the Premier. I will not go into why townships feel comfortable about writing to the

Premier in this province but there are many rural townships who feel they are part of the Big Blue Machine in some funny way. They feel they are quite at liberty to write to the Premier. I am sure anybody in Ontario is at liberty to write to the Premier.

I would be interested in hearing what kind of kerfuffle the Premier, his eminence himself, has put in writing in response to what I think are their very accurate insights into this bill. I would be interested in hearing the parliamentary assstant deliver to us in the Legislature an explanation as to just how this thing got so far off the track.

I would like to hear him explain at some point just how the Premier—who is seen by many to have a good sense of grassroots politics in this province—how that eminently wise and moderate person ever allowed such stupid legislation to get in place. I am not sure the parliamentary assistant is capable of doing that, but I would certainly appreciate it if he would make the attempt.

I heard his interjections throughout the course of the evening in which he made the allusion that someone had misled all these poor folks on rural councils. There are not many people around who are smart enough to mislead people on a rural council in Ontario. He may think so, but I was born and raised among them—people from South Fredericksburgh, Pittsburg township, Richmond township. He may think he is a lot smarter than they are and he may dress in a more expensive suit or ride in a larger limousine, but I doubt he is smarter. I would be interested to hear on what basis the parliamentary assistant so grandly pronounced tonight they were misled, that they did not know what they were talking about. I would be interested in hearing that. Exactly who misled them?

I read the article in the *Municipal World*. If that is what he is referring to, I think Julian Tofts put together an excellent analysis, perhaps not from an objective point of view, but he is a competent person who attempted to put on the record what happened. It strikes me his version of what happened in the course of developing this bill is pretty accurate.

If I were attempting to do a historical piece on it, I would be far harder on the member than the writer was in that article. I would be a whole lot tougher on how this bill was put together, on exactly how it was proceeded with, on exactly why this government has not done very much to respond to legitimate questions that were raised. I would be interested in, and I want to hear somewhere in the course of this debate, exactly

what the parliamentary assistant has to say about all this.

I would like to hear the reply of the Premier to all these townships and I would like to hear the parliamentary assistant put on the record in a slightly more formal way just exactly what he meant about how they were misled or how they were operating on inaccurate information. I sat through the committee hearings, every minute of every day, and I did not see anything inaccurate in any of those reports—not a whit.

If he dares to, I would be interested in having the parliamentary assistant put on the record exactly where he thinks things were misrepresented or exactly how he feels all of these duly elected municipal councils, even though they may be from rather small population centres, have somehow been misled or led astray. I looked at them and I came to the directly opposite conclusion. It seemed to me they are perceptive to the extreme. They know exactly what the political process is all about, perhaps better than the member for Wilson Heights does, and they know exactly how this system works. They know the flaws in the system and they know the flaws that have been exploited to produce this legislation.

I would be interested in hearing the member for Wilson Heights give us one of his not too famous lectures on how the Tories have held control of this province for more than 40 years. It strikes me that a major part of the reason has been their strength in rural Ontario. The very people who sit on these municipal councils in rural Ontario are the people who have made the members opposite a government for more than 40 years. Now the government is about to spit in their faces; as much as telling them they do not know what they are talking about. It is as much as saying they are wrong. It is saying they are easily misled and they really do not understand what this process is all about.

I put it to the parliamentary assistant that the people on the councils know more about this process than he will ever learn. They know the truth when they see it and they also know who is telling something other than the truth. They are far more perceptive than he ever will be. I would be interested in hearing what feeble arguments he might put up to the contrary because I do not think he has any argument at all.

I want to talk just for a little while about the role of the Solicitor General in this. Somewhere in the course of this debate, it must happen, although it has not happened to date.

Mr. Boudria: A speech from the Solicitor General?

Mr. Breagh: I am not looking for that kind of punishment. But somewhere here the Solicitor General of Ontario must give an accounting to the Legislature of Ontario as to exactly what role he played in this whole travesty of justice. The Solicitor General does not care to listen tonight. He is very busy talking to his chief whip, worrying about whether he will get enough members in case there is a vote or something like that.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: The record has been going on too long.

Mr. Breagh: I know the Solicitor General does not like people debating. That is a fact on his part. I know he does not like opposing points of view. That is also a fact on his part.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: It is not a debate. If the member searches his mind, he has been repeating everything he has said before.

Mr. Breagh: Has the Solicitor General any more lecture notes for me tonight?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I could not help the member in his efforts.

Mr. Breagh: I beg the minister's pardon. We are trying to get him on the record about something this evening. It is not possible.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: The member should keep talking. He is interesting.

Mr. Breagh: I appreciate that I am interesting, but I do not take it as a compliment, coming from the Solicitor General.

I am trying, but I want to make the point that somewhere in this process—

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Trying is the exact word.
10:20 p.m.

Mr. Breagh: I am trying. I hope I am causing the Solicitor General great pain. I hope I am causing him as much pain as he is causing the people in Vespra township. That would seem to me to be only fair.

I want to say to the minister as sincerely and directly as I can that somewhere in this process, as we wind down to the final hours of debate on this bill, I want him to explain to us what role he played in this bill. Some minister of the crown initiated this bill. It appears not to have been the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has not been here all night long. That is par for the course in many regards, but he is clearly putting a fair distance between himself and this legislation. The one who is here listening, but not

speaking much, is the new silent Earl over there, silent George, the Solicitor General.

I remember the then Minister of Health, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), lecturing the member for Frontenac-Addington for being silent on several matters. I am going to read some of those old speeches of the Minister of Health to the member for Frontenac-Addington, when he nicknamed him silent Earl, about how members are supposed to speak out from time to time. I want to hear what silent George has to say about this bill.

I think it is only fair and not being unreasonable to say we have searched to find the minister responsible for this legislation. It is tough because one hears he is introducing the bill and then he disappears for the duration of the war, so to speak. Instead, another minister of the crown, namely, the Solicitor General, keeps popping up with this hot little bill in his hand, on some days claiming credit for having introduced this bill, when he did not.

I was interested to find when I went to the Barrie area that some residents were somewhat confused. They were talking about the Solicitor General's bill. I said: "We do not have a bill with his name on it. I have one here with the name of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on it, but not one with Solicitor General's name on it. They said, "Did he not introduce this bill to the Legislature?" I had to say: "No, he did not. It is fine for him to say he is a part of the government that introduced it, but it is not his bill."

They somehow seemed to get the notion the Solicitor General had introduced this legislation. Maybe he took it around to a few folks. Maybe he explained it in a letter to all his constituents. Maybe he wrote some letters to the Barrie Examiner. Maybe lots of other things happened, but he did not introduce this legislation. His relationship to this bill seems to be questionable.

All I want, somewhere in this process, is to have the Solicitor General explain to the rest of us members his connection as an ordinary member of the Legislature representing a constituency that had some controversy about the boundary and the resolving of that problem. Is he acting in his capacity as a minister of the cabinet? Is he acting in his capacity as Solicitor General. Has he decided the chief cop in Ontario is now going to resolve boundary disputes by legislation? Is that his approach? Is that part of his new role as an expanding Solicitor General who is now taking on boundary disputes?

Mr. Martel: Line fences next.

Mr. Breagh: I would hate to turn him loose on things such as line fences disputes.

Mr. Martel: If he ever got hold of the Line Fences Act—

Mr. Breagh: He would bring in tanks to resolve line fences disputes. Somewhere in this process the Solicitor General owes this Legislature an explanation of his relationship and his role in presenting this bill to his caucus, to this Legislature and to his constituency back home. He has not done that yet. He has put on the record in a variety of ways that he supports the bill, but he has not exactly explained what his relationship is with this bill.

Is this his bill? Is this a bill the government has taken at his initiative and presented through another minister and then had it fronted by the parliamentary assistant? I want to know the intricacies of that relationship. I want to know all the warm and wonderful details of how the Solicitor General proposes to resolve this long-standing dispute.

At this point, I would like to let the parliamentary assistant say a couple of words. It would be nice to have somebody in charge of this bill in the Legislature this evening. Maybe it begs the point I just raised. Normally, when a bill is proceeding through the Legislature somebody is in charge of the bill. Sometimes it is the minister, but I look for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and he is not here. Sometimes it is the parliamentary assistant, but I look over at the last little hair on the tail of the Tories and the parliamentary assistant is not there.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: He is right there.

Mr. Breagh: Oh, he is hiding at the other end of the chamber.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: He is resting. He is getting sick.

Mr. Breagh: Who is getting sick?

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The member for Oshawa will not allow these disruptions to interrupt him.

Mr. Breagh: This disruptive behaviour is just tearing me up. He has been sick for some time; you know that. You do not have to nod in agreement; that is not necessary.

Before I was so rudely interrupted, somewhere in the process of dealing with this bill in its final phases we need to have a little bit of accountability. It is tough to sort out.

I notice, for example, that many members on the government side at least who sat through the public hearings on the bill are not here tonight. I

am disappointed at that. Let me see. Put your hands up, boys. There is one.

Mr. Sheppard: Come on, Al.

Mr. Martel: One.

Mr. Breagh: I said some of the members were not here; I should have said almost all the members.

Mr. Sheppard: He was a good chairman.

Mr. Breagh: Well, the chairman of the committee has a role similar to that of a county court circuit judge or something. He packs up his Cadillac, goes out and hears hearings.

But before I was so rudely interrupted, I had anticipated, quite frankly, that the member for Lambton, for example—who is a rather imposing figure when he sits on a committee, and who made some contributions to the final deals that were struck behind closed doors on various clauses of this debate—would be here tonight to participate in this debate; it is unfortunate that he is not here. Several other members of the Conservative Party who sat through all or portions of the hearings could have given us the benefit of their experience in municipal council work, especially in rural Ontario, and we have not had that.

Mr. Martel: I want to hear from the member who represents the riding. I want to know where he stands. He is not here now.

Mr. Breagh: Yes. The logical thing would be, of course, that at some point the member who does represent the riding would present himself before the committee or at least participate somewhere in the course of the debates on such an important local matter, and he has not really done that. He has written letters to the editor, letters to constituents and letters to the Premier probably, rationalizing what he is doing here; but he has not quite put the finishing touches on it, and he is going to have a chance in the course of this clause-by-clause debate to resolve that outstanding problem.

The purpose of the bill, as I understand it, was to change life in the part of Vespra township that is being annexed. I notice that the latest newspaper story out of the Barrie area, from the Barrie Examiner, had the headline "Rural Life Will Remain the Same." It seems to me that if everything is going to stay the same, if rural life in Vespra township will not change a whit because of the passage of this bill, if no new services will be provided to anybody anywhere at any time because of this bill and if Cadillac Fairview has all it needs, there is a need for someone to explain to this Legislature why we

are proceeding with this bill. That remains a fundamental question to which there has been to date no answer.

I know we are winding down a little bit this evening, and I want to make sure the parliamentary assistant has an opportunity to finish up on this first section, because I think a number of questions have been raised by both the member for Waterloo North and me that deserve to have answers. I know that each and every one of those municipal councils that took the time to deliberate upon a request from Vespra township, took it on its own initiative from information they had—

The Deputy Chairman: Is there time for the minister to—

Mr. Breaugh: I would be happy to move adjournment of the debate and take it up again later.

The Deputy Chairman: There is no need to make that motion.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Eaton, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, June 5, 1984
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 5, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all members to rise and join with me in a minute's silence in observance of the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landing in Normandy.

The House observed one minute's silence.

FAMILY OF ANDREI SAKHAROV

Mr. Rae: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I simply want to give notice that I intend today to move a resolution I hope the House leaders of the other parties will find occasion to discuss at some point before we adjourn. It is as follows:

That the government of Ontario express to the authorities in the Soviet Union, on behalf of the people of the province, its profound concern for the health and safety of Andrei Sakharov and his family and its complete opposition to Soviet treatment of the Sakharov family and other dissidents, and call upon the Soviet government to live up to its obligations under the Helsinki Accord.

[Later]

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: There have been discussions with the House leaders of the other parties with respect to the motion I indicated to you. I think there is unanimous consent to move, and to move quickly, with respect to the treatment of Andrei Sakharov and his family and with a message to the authorities in the Soviet Union from this assembly.

Can I ask you to ask for unanimous consent for me to move the motion on agreement? I do not think there is a need for any lengthy speeches. I think we are all agreed it is a matter of urgency that should proceed.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have the unanimous consent of the House?

Agreed to.

SMITHS FALLS SETTLERS DAYS COMMITTEE

Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and to the other members of the

House six members of the Smiths Falls Settlers Days Committee, who have ridden from Ottawa to Toronto in a stagecoach bringing mail and good greetings along the way. It was a 14-day trip.

All members are invited to meet them out front between 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. and all members are invited to come to friendly Lanark county and join in the celebrations from June 29 to July 1. They will have a good time.

I would like the members to welcome the six members of the Smiths Falls Settlers Days Committee, who are in the members' gallery on the east side.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TOMATO PROCESSING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have sent word to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) of a very serious question I would like to raise with him in the House today. He is not here, but perhaps he will be coming along in a moment. In the meantime, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade.

Through his involvement with the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, the minister is no doubt aware of the facts and circumstances surrounding the grant application of Topaz Foods Ltd. for a BILD grant. He will be aware that large grants were given through BILD to H. J. Heinz Co. of Canada Ltd. and others for a tomato paste processing operation, yet this Canadian firm was refused any meaningful financial assistance.

He will also recall that the then Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Allan, indicated at the time it was government policy to support big and powerful companies that know what they are doing, instead of the Canadian entrepreneurs, whom he termed "whiners and complainers."

Is it his government's policy to favour foreign multinationals at the expense of Canadian entrepreneurs?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Peterson: Then how does the minister justify this horrible mistake that he and his colleagues have made? Why was he not forthcoming with assistance for this factory?

My colleague the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) has been fighting for months for this plant. We have all seen it. I have seen it and he has seen it. It is a respectable and good organization. Why would the minister not treat this firm in the same way he would treat a foreign multinational? What kind of screwball policies has he got over there?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do not recall it ever having been the policy of this government to aid large foreign companies, as the Leader of the Opposition has quoted Duncan Allan as saying. I do not recall his saying that, but he may have. I can only say to the honourable member that through BILD we have helped many a small Ontario company in the food area. Indeed, through a whole series of BILD grants in relatively small proportions, we have helped a good many producers and manufacturers of processed foods.

I am not able to give the member the answers today. I would trust he would expect us to look at each company's balance sheet and each company's opportunity to succeed. I do know the very first company we helped was not a particularly large one, but I would have to go back and see the records.

I also recall there were very serious problems of profitability in the tomato paste industry. I would not say I know the arithmetic of Topaz, because I do not.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister not in BILD?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Certainly, I am. That does not mean I can regurgitate by instant memory all the arithmetic of a given case.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would say to the member we have been very careful, cautious and unpolitical in our decisions, unlike some of his colleagues.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could give us one reason Topaz would be less qualified to receive assistance from his government than would Heinz. Will he table in this House in written form the reasons he would not give the assistance to Topaz, when he gave it to Heinz?

2:10 p.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, as I recall, for advice on the food processing applications we depend very heavily upon the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. I would be glad to look into the arithmetic. Whether I am able to table the answers in this House would depend very much upon the confidentiality of that information.

Every so often the members ask for information to be given out that, once given, the companies wish it had never been asked for.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the minister that this is an alternative crop in an area where the main crop, tobacco, has been hard hit by the taxes put on by the government. Will the minister consider an increase from five per cent to 20 per cent, the same as Heinz received? Will he give a commitment to provide them with the same funding that has been given to Heinz?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give any commitments today.

BY-ELECTION IN STORMONT, DUNDAS AND GLENGARRY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), whom I notified of my desire to ask him this question, but in his absence I am going to ask the question of the Solicitor General. I have just sent the appropriate information over to the Solicitor General. I assume he has had a chance to digest the memo that came forward.

Because he has it in front of him, he will be aware that we have in writing—it just came to my attention—a note from Mr. Stephen Ault of Ault Foods Ltd. in Winchester that is, in my view, a clear violation of the Criminal Code, subsection 110(2), which provides that it is a criminal offence for anyone to attempt to buy votes in the federal Parliament or in any Legislature in this country.

I refer him to the last paragraph where it says: "Without our close connection to the present Ontario government, this project and the extra employment it means would not be possible. I hope you will take this into consideration on Thursday and lend your support to Noble Villeneuve and the government that made this possible."

That memo was forthcoming on December 13, 1983, two days before a by-election in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, as the minister will recall. I am sure he is familiar with the provisions of the Criminal Code and I am sure he is aware that this memo went to all employees, clearly a case of shameless, barefaced and transparent vote-buying.

Will the minister, as one of the chief law officers of the crown—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The honourable Leader of the Opposition will just state his question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Since it is an indictable offence—

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Oh, come off it.

Mr. Peterson: You do not know right from wrong; that is your problem. You, as the secretary—

Mr. Speaker: Will the Leader of the Opposition please place his question?

Mr. Peterson: Will the Solicitor General, because it is an indictable offence, launch an investigation into this matter, plus all previous correspondence and discussions pertaining to this particular grant and the subsequent attempt to buy votes to determine whether there was an indictable offence committed by this memo and by the intimidation emanating from it.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I just this very minute received what appears to be a copy of a piece of correspondence to all employees, as the honourable member has suggested. I do not know whether the facts are as he has alleged or suggested. However, on the face of what I see, it appears to be a company that appears to be very supportive of the government and of the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) and is indicating that to his employees.

As usual with a request from the Leader of the Opposition, I will consult with the Attorney General on the material and pass it on to him so he may review the meagre information we have at this time. Naturally, with the great caution the Attorney General has and that I have in this portfolio, on the strength of that piece of material I would not launch an investigation as he asks, but I may make some inquiries about it.

Mr. Peterson: The minister will be aware that half a million dollars was forthcoming on the eve of that by-election and the subsequent memo. To refresh his memory, I refer him to the Criminal Code, subsection 110(2), which reads as follows: "Everyone commits an offence who...whether express or implied, directly or indirectly subscribes, gives, or agrees to subscribe or give, to any person any valuable consideration for the purpose of promoting the election of a candidate...to a legislature."

Will the Solicitor General now give me his undertaking that he will investigate this matter completely, that he will not sweep it under the rug and that he will come back to this Legislature with the complete results of that investigation?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: As I said in my initial reply, I will discuss it with the Attorney General. I will ask him if there is anything more than the

meagre information I have. We will then discuss whether this will proceed further.

Naturally, the member has read from the Criminal Code. I know he has never practised criminal law and is just reading from that book, but he is taking it in all seriousness. We will treat it with the same degree of seriousness. I will transfer it to the Attorney General to review as time progresses and I receive more information on it.

BEACH POLLUTION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is of the Minister of the Environment, who advocated yesterday the Dave Winfield solution to the problem of pollution on Toronto's beaches. In the interim report of April 1983 on Toronto area water quality that the minister issued last year, there was no mention of the Dave Winfield solution to the problem of water pollution and water quality in Toronto. There was specific mention of the following, which I will quote to the minister:

"Urban storm water runoff, combined sewer overflows and sewage treatment plant effluents appear to have particular significance in the impairment of receiving stream water quality, especially with respect to bacterium."

Given that very clear statement in the report issued by his ministry, with no mention of the seagull problem being the dominant problem in the west end of Toronto, but specific mention of water quality, sewage water overflows and so on, why does the minister continue to refuse to move in the one area where he can do something now? He can put construction workers or out-of-work people back to work and he can solve a significant problem with respect to the overflow of raw, untreated sewage directly into the Humber, the Don and Lake Ontario. Why does he not at least move on that when he has a specific report that calls on him to do so?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, in my response yesterday I did not in any way indicate that the problem of combined runoff in some of the Toronto area municipalities was not a contributing factor to the contamination on the beaches. I did indicate it was part of the problem. I also indicated there are other contributing factors, among which, as has been suggested by a number of spokesmen, not only me, are the seagulls.

With respect to the proposals on the part of the leader of the third party, I have to say that not only have we contributed some \$3 million to the cleanup, as I announced in this House and

indicated the details of the program we are undertaking on the waterfront, but also we have accelerated the very program the member is talking about. Not only has my ministry assisted in that regard, but the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has also assisted with the construction of some sewer undertakings in the Toronto area municipalities. We are thankful to have been joined by the federal government, which has also contributed some funds in participating in this program.

It is virtually impossible to do overnight or in a short period of time the whole job the member is suggesting. Even though I know there is a great deal of work yet to be done, I want to put on the record that there is no jurisdiction in Canada as far advanced as this jurisdiction in the field of sewer separation, sewage treatment and some of the hard services municipalities are required to place in the ground by way of environmental control equipment. No jurisdiction in Canada is as far ahead as we are.

Mr. Rae: The minister cannot deny that the section in his budget that deals with sewer separation, broadly speaking, has been cut significantly in the last two years. The facts are there. He suffered a cut of more than \$40 million in that particular budget. He cannot deny that for a moment.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Rae: He also cannot deny that the major study done on Toronto has identified the problem of sewage overflow and the failure to complete sewer separation as one of the chief contributing factors to the pollution of the Humber, the Don and Lake Ontario.

I go back to the same question because I think the minister has to answer it. Why has he not followed up on that report with measures aimed at stopping the pollution of the Humber, the Don and Lake Ontario and at dealing with the major problem, which is the inadequate treatment of sewage and of sewage overflow in the city of Toronto? Why has he not focused on that problem?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to straighten the leader of the third party out with respect to the budget of the Ministry of the Environment. It has not been cut.

Last year supplemental funding of some \$30 million was added to my budget, and it went directly to the relief of some of the costs associated with the municipal undertakings. If the honourable member were to take that figure

off, he would see that the budget is very much in line with last year's budget. In addition, if the same set of problems arises this year with respect to municipal funding, an additional amount of money may well be added to my budget some time further in the year to look after that problem.

There has not been a net cut in the budget, and in particular there has not been a cut in the budget on the capital side as it relates to the very programs he is attempting to identify. The reality is that we have invested—this is an important point, and I want to share some of this information with the leader of the third party because I think he needs this information—

Mr. Speaker: I think we have heard this before.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: No, you have not. This is new.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment knows that the city of Toronto has spent more than \$1 million in trying to fix up the Sunnyside bathing pavilion and that the federal government is spending \$500,000 this summer to fix that pavilion and make improvements on those beaches. When is the minister going to spend his money to ensure that senior citizens and our children can enjoy the waterfront?

He knows full well that unless he acts quickly he cannot give us an undertaking that these beaches will be available for kids to swim at this summer so they can enjoy the waterfront. We want him to give us an undertaking today that the Sunnyside waterfront will be ready for the kids and for the seniors to enjoy this summer.

Can he tell us that? I was here yesterday, and he told us then that he was not sure which beach he was going to open up.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Is it my turn, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member, I am sure, is aware of the fact—

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Do not be too sure.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Well, perhaps he is not, but I will try to enlighten him, and I will speak slowly so he can follow the answer to his question.

The answer to the question is that we have provided funds to Metropolitan Toronto specifically directed towards that beach, and that is where some improvements are going to be made. That program is co-ordinated by a committee that

is in place and was set up between Metropolitan Toronto and my ministry. We have already committed the funds, and the work is under the direction, as well it should be, of the Metro Toronto engineering department. I think that is quite appropriate. We are working and co-operating with them to clear up the very problem the member is identifying.

Mr. Rae: Since the minister is so determined to refuse to answer very clearly the questions that are being put to him, let me ask him this: is he denying specifically that the city of York, which borders on the Humber River, needs another \$90 million for sewer separation? Is he denying that East York, which borders on the Don, needs \$35 million? And is he denying that the city of Scarborough needs \$20 million?

Why is the government of Ontario failing to play its proper leadership role in stopping the degradation of the water quality in Lake Ontario and in the city of Toronto? Why is the minister refusing to do what so obviously needs to be done? There is a need there. There are 10,000 construction workers looking for work in Toronto. Why does he not put those people to work solving a problem that will genuinely provide something for future generations? Why is the minister being so short-sighted?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I do not think we are short-sighted on this side of the House at all. I think the party that is a little short-sighted rests over there in the third position where it will remain for ever, coming up with solutions to problems where the only option it can ever suggest is to throw more money and more government funding at problems and to create jobs in a fashion that has not worked at the federal level and certainly will not work at the provincial level.

The member knows that is not the answer to unemployment in our province or in our country. The reality is that the cost of the programs identified by the leader of the third party are municipal responsibilities; they are not provincial responsibilities. At some time, this ministry may well review its priority list and take a look at some further programs. It may incorporate some of the thoughts the member is suggesting. However, up until now, the separation of sewers has consistently and always been a municipality responsibility.

The leader of the third party would like to shift this responsibility in this House and make it a part of the responsibility of my ministry. I am not prepared to accept it today, and I may not be prepared to accept it tomorrow either.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With the concurrence of the House, I wish to introduce a visitor in the Speaker's gallery. The Honourable Robert L. Andrew, Minister of Finance for Saskatchewan, is visiting us. I ask you to join with me in welcoming him to Ontario.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Premier, the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. Our party completed a random survey last week of 10 firms in Ontario with more than 300 workers to determine again what is happening with affirmative action.

Not to our surprise, contrary to what the minister has been telling us, we found that the vast majority of these firms have no affirmative action program in existence, no involvement or contact with the government's voluntary affirmative action program and that they very much conform to the pattern which has become all too prevalent in Tory Ontario of women being relegated to secondary and dead-end positions with respect to promotion.

Does the Deputy Premier not think the charade of his so-called voluntary, secret program, which is the laughingstock of every group that has studied this problem in Ontario, should come to an end? Does he not think it is about time these companies were brought up to scratch in terms of affirmative action programs that really provide opportunities for women?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, in response to similar questions from the honourable member, I have had the opportunity from time to time to indicate that this government is seriously committed to the whole concept of positive affirmative action. As we talk of the work done by this government itself in so far as affirmative action is concerned, I think it is a record that is worthy of repetition. It is a good example.

I have said we had to make sure as a major employer that we were setting an example in showing the way with respect to a positive program of this kind. I went on to point out that in the private sector, through a voluntary program, with the availability of consultants and staff people, we were working with major employers in this province and that 244 of them had adopted affirmative action programs.

There are 900 firms with more than 500 employees. Therefore, it would not be surprising that when we subtract 244 from 900, there is a bit of work yet to be done. Without knowing the list of those that were on the member's survey, I am

not in any position to comment with respect to the 10 or so he and his officials consulted. It could well be they are part of that number of companies where work is yet to be done.

I think there is an increasing awareness of the equity and fairness in the whole program. We will continue to work with the major employers in this province to encourage and persuade them to join the current 244 in positive affirmative action.

Mr. Rae: At the rate the government is going in terms of its contact with companies with more than 20 employees, it will take more than 700 years for the government of Ontario to contact all those employers.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: It will take 1,800 years for those employers to put affirmative action programs into place. I hope the minister is not arguing in this House that the women in Ontario should be prepared to wait 700 or 1,800 years to see affirmative action programs in place in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: My specific question to the minister is, can he explain why companies that have major dealings with the government of Ontario do not have programs that provide equal opportunity for women? These companies range from Consumers' Gas to Du Pont Canada and many other firms that have extensive dealings with various parts of the government and are very much involved in the fabric of life in Ontario. In the case of Consumers' Gas, it is publicly regulated by the government of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I certainly agree with the leader of the third party that the time frame to which he has made some reference is not satisfactory. In doing so, I do not in any way agree that is the time frame.

I believe the progress we will make will be very significant. I have already indicated the plans we have with respect to work in the educational community and the municipal area as well as with respect to those agencies that receive substantial funds from the consolidated revenue fund of the province.

As to what we might do to further emphasize the importance of this program in the private sector through some introduction in the procurement policy of this province as far as affirmative action is concerned is one of many options currently being investigated by us as a positive step.

I also indicated three or four answers ago on the same question that it is my plan to have a series of meetings with chief executive officers and personnel people in this province to indicate the seriousness with which the government views this whole area of equality of access and advancement.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine how the Deputy Premier can say that without breaking into laughter.

While he was on his feet, I did a bit of quick addition. In December 1982 the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), who was responsible for women's issues at the time, told us that 224 of the 900 largest employers had involved themselves in some way in an affirmative action program. Today, exactly 18 months later, the minister is on his feet telling us we have made an enormous gain of an additional three per cent of the largest employers in Ontario.

When is the government going to get serious about affirmative action? What specific targets does the minister have as to the big 900 joining this program by the end of 1984, or are we simply going to listen to more platitudes and no action?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member asked me how serious we are. We are quite serious. I will not be satisfied until every work place in the province ensures there is that type of equality. It is a commitment we make.

We are in the position we are in today because we have a very solid foundation. Although the member may want to talk about percentages, I want him to know that when we talk about major employers of the size to which I made reference, we are now seeing affirmative action programs in place for thousands of women who are involved in the places of employment to which those plans have now been applied.

I will not be satisfied, nor will anybody be satisfied, until such time as we can accelerate this move and accomplish this result. I am encouraged that we have general agreement with respect to our objective.

Mr. Rae: The affirmative action program of this government is nothing but a chintzy, flimsy charade and the minister knows it.

Given the commitment that was indicated last week by the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling), who is responsible for so-called freedom of information, will the minister at least table the nature of the government's program, the targets it has set for the employers who are supposed to be part of the program and the identity of the various com-

panies and major boards of education that have joined the program?

If it is such a great program, why is the minister not telling the members how successful it is? Why is he not telling us exactly what it is doing? Why is he keeping it such a magnificent secret?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am glad the member asked this supplementary question. I had intended to cover that point in the answer to the main question.

That is something I am going to have to deal with employers on, because one of the undertakings given as far as this program is concerned is a certain degree of confidentiality. That has been respected. A government has to keep its word in this regard, and with all the information that is shared, we could hardly be criticized for respecting our agreements with respect to confidentiality.

I want the member to know that the 244 major employers to which I have already made two or three references during the course of this exchange cover 311,000 women in their area, not to overlook 28,000 women in the public service. When the leader of the third party uses words like "sham," he does the program within government itself a great disservice.

I have had the opportunity to speak with my colleagues, the other provincial ministers responsible for the status of women, and I am very proud of Ontario's record in comparison to that of the rest of this country. Indeed, I think it was a minister in the government of Manitoba—I have forgotten now which political party is in control of that government—who was very generous in his praise of what this jurisdiction is doing on this and other matters related to the advancement of women.

QUEEN STREET MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health. Can the minister tell the House whether he has been informed by his assistant deputy minister, Dr. Boyd Suttie, of the results of an emergency meeting he held on May 1 with the board of the Archway Counselling and Crisis Centre and what steps have been taken by his ministry to implement the recommendations that were made to Dr. Suttie at that emergency meeting?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I missed the first part of the question; I believe it related to a meeting that was held with an organization called Archway. I am not familiar with that meeting; I

was not present, and have not yet been brought up to date on it. Dr. Suttie could very well be proceeding to respond to those recommendations without having found any need to discuss it directly with me; I am not aware of that. I will undertake to discuss it with him, however.

Ms. Copps: Just to refresh the minister's memory, his predecessor as Minister of Health stated that mental health was going to be one of his top priorities, and back in November 1982 his predecessor felt the situation in Toronto was critical enough that he ordered the hiring of 10 new staff at Archway. Those staffers were not hired until January 1984 and they did not begin taking clients until last month.

In the meantime, the case load of Archway, which is associated with the Queen Street Mental Health Centre as an outpatient program, has almost doubled over the last two years. The response to this crisis in case load by officials at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre was to tell staffers last month to stop taking referrals, including a recent case of an axe-wielding person who needed immediate attention, but to deny that information if anyone should ask about those referrals.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Ms. Copps: How can his ministry and his assistant deputy minister, if he has not informed the minister, condone the deliberate coverup of the facts by officials at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre? How can he sit by and see a team co-ordinator like Anne Harris, who is here in the gallery today and who paid the first rent when Archway was started seven years ago, forced out of Archway after seven years of devoting her heart and soul to a program that is becoming so mired in red tape that it is neglecting the group it was originally formed to assist?

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is fine for the honourable member to stand in the Legislature and use anecdotal, albeit potentially alarming information that she has not seen fit to communicate to me at any other time, even though she did see fit yesterday to come across the House to discuss with me at length a matter related to Hamilton that she did not wish to raise as a question in the House.

Mr. Mancini: Do you want us to submit our questions in advance? Just answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I am not suggesting questions should be submitted in advance. I am suggesting that if her concern is so genuine and if her alarm is so great, she has had other opportunities to bring this to my attention.

As I say, it is anecdotal information. If she or the individuals involved have had reason to feel that appropriate action was not being taken by the officials of my ministry, then I would like them to demonstrate when they have previously made any effort to bring this to my attention personally.

2:40 p.m.

I have indicated to her that I will discuss it with Dr. Suttie and I shall do it this afternoon. I also think it important that she recognizes—and makes her recognition public—that the largest increasing portion of our budget in the area of health care in this province over the last couple of years has been in community mental health. It has more than doubled in that period at a time when government expenditures generally have been subject to very severe constraint. She cannot legitimately stand and suggest—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. I am referring to another matter affecting women in which the government expresses concern but produces very little concrete support. I am referring to the inadequate funding of the 16 rape crisis centres across the province.

My leader discussed this with the minister a week ago. The government grant of \$200,000 a year to the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres does not provide for a full time co-ordinator in each centre. Most have to use volunteers to provide the necessary services. I refer to the 24-hour telephone service for victims, helping them go to hospitals to seek assistance, giving them support in court appearances and doing community education on the need for assistance to the victims of this heinous crime.

In the minister's reply he claimed the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Ms. Bryden: I will be there in one minute or one half minute.

Mr. Speaker: We cannot afford a half a minute.

Ms. Bryden: The minister claims the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres had not asked for any more than the \$200,000 take-it-or-leave-it grant. Is he not aware the coalition has been asking for increased funding beyond this amount for a considerable time?

In addition, it has been asking for permanent stabilized funding for these centres so they do not have to come begging to the government and to the community every year. They want to be able to supply rape victims in this province the kind of support services they deserve.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the third party raised this question in the House about a week or so ago. At that time I pointed out that this whole area is the responsibility of the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker). It is my understanding, and it has been confirmed following the exchange with the honourable leader, that the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres asked for \$600,000 over three years.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Wait a minute now. They have received exactly what they requested. When we divide \$600,000 by three we come to the figure to which I made reference.

I pay tribute to the people who are involved in this work. Many are volunteers. They have made it quite clear that they want their independence; they do not want to become overly dependent on any one source of revenue. They have dealt with the Provincial Secretary for Justice and the minister and secretariat responded to their request.

As members know, we deal with the coalition and the coalition distributes to its membership. I would think in that spirit of consultation that we have met the requests. Also, at the time of responding to the leader's question I made reference to the government's recent involvement—I think it was at Women's College Hospital—as further evidence of our concern. We are supportive of the tremendous amount of work that is being done all through this province by very dedicated volunteers acting in many capacities.

Ms. Bryden: While the Women's College Hospital is a move in the right direction, it is not the kind of service that a rape crisis centre can give to victims who need support, assistance and advocacy. It should be providing us with public education.

It seems to me the minister is badly misinformed about the rape crisis centres' requests. The director has informed me that they did ask for more and the \$200,000 was offered on the basis of a take-it-or-leave-it thing. Will the minister now sit down with the Provincial Secretary for Justice and the other ministers concerned and work out a plan for permanent, stabilized funding for the rape crisis centres in

this province and for immediate help to those in financial difficulty now?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It was my understanding that the three-year commitment was a negotiated amount and that it was significantly higher than for the preceding year, which in a year of overall restraint in government indicates some significant commitment to this work.

I would be quite willing to draw this to the provincial secretary's attention once again, but I remind the honourable member it was my understanding the government responded in the dollar figures I have made reference to, which did come in the form of a request from the coalition.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I am mindful of what the Deputy Premier told the critic for the third party and I last fall, which was that his ministry would in a sense have a direct input into all these programs as they affect women.

Rather than simply drawing it to the provincial secretary's attention, would the Deputy Premier and the responsible line minister be willing to sit down with the coalition and work out a long-term policy so the Deputy Premier does not have to stand in this House and deny there is any problem when very clearly there is?

Would he be willing to sit down with the coalition and go over this three-year funding program to satisfy himself that the great needs of the coalition and rape crisis centres around this province are met?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is very important to recognize that although we have this particular focus in government, we have a number of line ministers who are very much concerned with this issue. Let us not overlook the work that goes on in the Ministry of Health with respect to the development of the protocols or the sensitive approach in law enforcement and of the whole justice system.

Although we quite rightly pay tribute to the work that goes on in this area, there are a number of areas where, as a member of the government and charged with my particular responsibilities, from time to time I would want to bring a certain point of view to the attention of those making the decisions.

I repeat that I understand there has been a working relationship between the coalition and the Justice secretariat, and I will be glad to raise once again the concerns of the member and those of our colleague with the minister charged with that responsibility.

WHEELING POLICY

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Energy, who no doubt is aware that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority is currently undertaking the construction of a small hydroelectric generating station at Fanshawe Dam which will allow the energy to be used in the parks of the conservation authority.

The minister may also be aware that the economic basis for this undertaking was consent by Ontario Hydro to allow the authority to wheel the power from the generating site into the Hydro grid and then to the conservation authority parks and to do this at a very nominal fee.

Is the minister aware that, contrary to its previous statements, Ontario Hydro now has refused to sign any agreement with the conservation authority and that Hydro has not finalized its policy on wheeling? Can he tell us exactly why there is no policy in Hydro concerning wheeling?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, this is a unique case, and I would appreciate having an opportunity to give the honourable member a more thorough answer and to provide him with the kind of detail that would allow him to take a possible solution back to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

This issue has been raised occasionally with me by other members of the House. We are somewhat concerned about the barriers to this project that appear to exist, and we want to bring the project to a successful conclusion. We will be addressing that issue and working towards that conclusion.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Van Horne: The economic viability of this project hinges on the ability of the conservation authority to wheel at a minimal price. The one suggested was a quarter of a cent per kilowatt hour. Contrary to that, we hear now they are talking numbers as high as eight times that or two cents a kilowatt hour. When this wheeling policy is arrived at, can the minister give us any assurance he will consider carefully the economic implications for such agencies as the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and make it reasonable for them to wheel the power?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I think it is our intention to reach a conjoint, amicable solution to this problem. The province has invested considerable sums of money in this project, as has the government of Canada. The wheeling arrangement that was being proposed originally by

Ontario Hydro appeared to be a satisfactory arrangement to the conservation authority.

As I said in my previous answer, I will endeavour to make sure the discussion continues to bring about some satisfactory solution for both the honourable member and this conservation authority.

AUTOMOTIVE TASK FORCE

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade. Is he aware Chrysler management announced yesterday that it would not be opening the engine plant in Windsor and would be continuing to source a great many of its engines from Japan?

In view of this, is the minister willing to reconsider the statement he made in a letter to me dated May 24, that there is no longer any need to press the federal government for implementation of the Federal Task Force on the Canadian Motor Vehicle and Auto Parts Industries because the federal government is negotiating with Japanese auto firms for investment?

Does the minister not realize that we are talking about 2,000 jobs in the city of Windsor and that the automotive task force does not only address the Japanese import problem, but also addresses the problem of the Big Three sourcing auto parts from all over the world? Without the implementation of that auto task force, we are going to have real problems with the Big Three and loss of jobs with our own North American auto makers, let alone the problem with the Japanese imports.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I am aware. I was in Ottawa yesterday when Mr. Lumley announced the final decision. I have been privy to the attempts by Chrysler, the union and the Japanese companies to find an economic way of making the engines in North America at a cost comparable to the cost of purchasing them offshore. I think it is safe to say Chrysler wanted that.

I also understand there were a lot of discussions between the company and the union as to what rules of work, etc., would apply if a deal was made with a Japanese joint venture company. I understand Nissan and at least one other company, perhaps Mitsubishi, were involved in the discussions. Indeed, some of the rules we take for granted in North America, particularly in Canada, were seen by the potential investors to increase the unit costs in Canada to the point where the investment was not attractive.

I hope and trust we in Canada will not find ourselves making demands of potential investors

that unions or corporations in the United States do not make. I am very worried about that, because there are some other negotiations going on right now that are very critical. As the member knows, the van plant in Windsor is another example. Discussions are going on there too. I hope we all realize that if we can find ways and means to be competitive with offshore sources, we will have jobs here, and if we do not, we will not.

As far as the auto task force goes, I do not want the member to think that letter implies that Ontario does not support the Canadian content rule. Far from it. It does. We continue to press for a response from the federal government on the task force. I think if he checks a speech I gave in Windsor a week ago this morning, he will find I stressed that quite heavily in Windsor.

Mr. Cooke: In his letter to me, the minister says he does not intend to press the federal government for implementation of that auto task force report because he feels the Japanese investment will take care of the problem.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cooke: Does the minister not realize what Chrysler Corp. has decided to do? The M-body cars that are now being produced in St. Louis will be going to Mexico, so we are going to have cars that have always been produced in North America, formerly in Windsor, now made in Mexico. They are going to retool the St. Louis plant to produce the T-115, and in the end the Windsor facilities will not be diversified. We are developing the world car with parts coming from all over and Canada is the big loser in the reorganization that has taken place in the Big Three in the last number of years.

If this task force is not implemented, the Canadian auto industry is going out and we will not have a Canadian auto industry. Ontario will be the big loser.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cooke: Why does the minister not apply pressure and use the political influence this province should have to get that auto task force and content legislation passed by the federal government? He would not see Alberta neglecting its main industry as this province is neglecting the auto industry.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would argue Alberta is ignoring its basic industry by not having reasonable petrochemical feedstock prices at times on feedstock in Ontario. I would argue that is not at all in the interest of the people of Alberta and

certainly not in the interest of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Cooke: The government has ignored the auto industry for years and the minister knows it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: There are several variables and the member will find me making a number of speeches around Ontario in the next few months exhorting all three parts of the equation, government, union and industry, to realize work rules in the world are changing and we have to have competitive conditions and attitudes here or the investments will go offshore.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us what representations he has made or is prepared to make to Chrysler Corp. regarding the exclusivity of the T-115 in the Windsor assembly plant?

I would remind the minister that at the time the Chrysler agreement was struck to draw down \$200 million in this country if necessary, Chrysler had indicated it would give us exclusivity for this van-wagon. What kind of representations is this minister prepared to make to that company to ensure Windsor is not ultimately the loser on the biggest success on the road this year?

Hon. F. S. Miller: As I understand it, the present plant is running two eight-hour shifts a day. There is a chance for an unprecedented change to utilize the \$450 million worth of machinery in that plant to make a third shift per day. As I understand it, that would create about 2,000 jobs in Windsor. Those people are currently out of work, so they do not vote on the proposals.

I understand there have been protracted negotiations between Chrysler and the union to determine if there was not some mutually beneficial way to see 2,000 more Canadian workers at work and the machinery used three shifts a day instead of two. I understand that would require some changes in the number of hours paid for.

I am not privy to those things. It seems eminently sensible to me that we should see the extra production in Canada.

Mr. Wrye: Why does the minister not get involved?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I cannot tell Chrysler or the union to settle.

Mr. Wrye: Why does the minister not talk about the 2,000 jobs?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: All I know is that we run the risk of seeing all the jobs in St. Louis or somewhere else if we are not willing to meet the conditions and terms other people will meet.

UNPAID FINES

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, the number of Ontarians serving jail terms instead of paying fines increased in one year by nearly 5,000 people, as outlined in the 1983 annual report of the Ministry of Correctional Services. This increase has cost the taxpayers nearly \$3 million more than the year before. The total number of people being jailed for not paying fines costs the provincial prison system about \$12 million annually. In view of these facts, what is the Minister of Correctional Services doing to stop this increasing trend and what is he doing to reverse it and save the system millions annually?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, the member for Grey may not know because as I understand it, he has just taken over as the critic for my ministry—

Mr. Eakins: He knows more than the minister thinks.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: We will find out how much he really knows tomorrow when we have our estimates.

I would like to say to the member for Grey that my ministry does not control the intake into our institutions. We have to accept those people who are brought to our jails and detention centres by the police with proper warrants of committal.

3 p.m.

I would just like to say this minister introduced a program called the fine option program one and a half years ago. At the present time, we do have two pilot projects in the Niagara area for fine defaulters. One is in St. Catharines, which is administered by the John Howard Society; another one is in Hamilton—and I know the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) will be aware of this—which is administered by the Elizabeth Fry Society. We have been monitoring these two projects and are quite pleased with some of the results. We will be looking at the possibility of implementing these in greater numbers at some future time.

Mr. McKessock: Why is the minister spending \$16.5 million on new jail spaces when he could free up 19,000 spaces occupied by people who are going to jail for not paying fines, if he expanded the fine option program he is talking about right across Ontario instead of just in St. Catharines and Hamilton as is the case right now?

Through these programs, an offender is able to repay his or her debt to society in a useful way rather than just languishing in jail at substantial cost to the taxpayer.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: As I mentioned earlier, two pilot projects were introduced for evaluation purposes. We cannot just introduce programs across the province unless we know how well these programs are functioning. We have been evaluating the two pilots in the St. Catharines and Hamilton areas and we have to make sure the programs are actually doing what they are intended to do.

FAMILY BENEFITS ACT REGULATIONS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister will be aware that yesterday's Globe and Mail carried an article about the unjustness of the family benefits regulation, which is likely to deprive Kirk Lutes of most or all of his \$15,000 criminal injuries compensation award. I am sure he is also aware that the same regulation under the act perpetrates an equally ruthless and more widespread recovery of funds from Workers' Compensation Board victims.

For instance, while the Family Benefits Act permits a family benefits recipient with children to make up to \$140 a month above the FBA level before deducting anything from the family benefits, if that worker gets hurt on the job and gets WCB payments in lieu of wages, the ministry deducts that money from the FBA payments. How can the minister defend such heartless laws, and is he considering some humane changes in the regulations, particularly as they pertain to those who are permitted supplementary earnings?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I do not understand what the member is talking about, but we will have a go at it.

No, I am not going to change any regulations. No, I am not going to be in a position where people receive advance payments from workers' compensation and the government, acting as their banker, does not recover it. In regard to the case the member mentions, I have taken some steps so he will not lose any money while he works out a plan on what to do with the \$15,000.

Mr. Swart: Perhaps if I bring a specific instance to the minister's attention, he can understand it and perhaps soften his heart a little bit, although that may be doubtful. I would like to bring to his attention the case of Miss Judy Pigeon of Welland.

Mr. Speaker: I would rather hear a question, please.

Mr. Swart: All right. May I inform the minister—that is a question—that she is a single-parent mother with two children who is the recipient of \$575 monthly from FBA plus \$100 or \$125 a month which she received working as a waitress. May I inform the minister that in March 1983 she injured her back on the job and was not able to work at the job for the next nine months. Ultimately, on appeal just two months ago, the WCB awarded her \$818 for her injury.

Would the minister believe that although that money was paid in lieu of her waitress's income, his ministry has demanded by letter, which I have here, repayment of every cent of that \$818 and is now deducting it from her family benefits cheque? Does the minister think that is fair treatment? Does he not think the regulations under the FBA might be amended so this sort of thing is abolished?

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is probably more to it than the member has stated.

Mr. Swart: Not a bit.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just easy, you.

I am not going to change any regulations. I will look at that particular case and if the member has not stated it correctly, he should believe me I will be right back in here.

DAY CARE

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the same minister regarding his ministry's policy of phasing out hidden subsidies in day care centres by 1986. Municipal councils, particularly those in rural Ontario, have great concerns as to the effect this will have on the future of their day care facilities and of the service to the working mothers in their areas.

In view of the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has identified day care as a primary concern of rural women, can the minister give me a guarantee that day care in these rural areas will not suffer as a result of this policy so that I can reassure my constituents they will still have access to adequate day care after 1986?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I believe I did that a couple of weeks ago with my colleague, the Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch), when we met with the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care, including the alderwoman from Wingham who has been speaking about this. We announced we were looking into some solutions for the problem

of the centres and the spaces the member mentioned.

As the member knows, that problem was brought about by the fact that the federal government said we should not be subsidizing. We believe we have another method. The Deputy Premier and I discussed it and told the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care we would be back to them relatively quickly and before 1986.

MOTION

FAMILY OF ANDREI SAKHAROV

Mr. Rae moved, seconded by Mr. Martel, that the government of Ontario express to the authorities of the Soviet Union, on behalf of the people of this province, its profound concern for the health and safety of Andrei Sakharov and his family, its complete opposition to Soviet treatment of the Sakharov family and other dissidents, and calls upon the Soviet government to live up to its obligations under the Helsinki Accord.

Motion agreed to.

3:10 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned consideration of Bill 141, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

On section 1:

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, we are still discussing the question of equal pay for work of equal value and we still find it difficult to understand why the minister has not been listening to the many petitions that have been read in this House in favour of this particular concept. We still cannot understand how all the members who were present in the House on October 20, 1983, who voted for the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and for its enshrinement in the Employment Standards Act cannot accept our amendment, which does provide for the enshrinement of that principle in the Employment Standards Act.

The government amendments that are in Bill 141 do not in any way implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value because they do not provide for the comparison of dissimilar jobs. I would still like the parliamentary assistant to explain to us how the government can consider

going ahead with the present form of Bill 141 in view of all those statements in favour of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, under which one must compare dissimilar jobs.

I would remind him that the International Labour Organization convention, which has been signed by Canada but which has to be implemented through joint action by the federal and provincial governments, calls for the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. It may not use those exact terms, but it talks about equivalent work, and the context has been taken in most countries to mean equal pay for work of equal value.

In the light of all those statements, we think it is time the parliamentary assistant indicated that the government is prepared to reconsider its position on this bill and to give actual implementation to the principle.

I have a letter from the Premier (Mr. Davis) to a constituent who wrote to him asking for support on the issue of equal pay for work of equal value. The Premier wrote back simply saying, "Please be assured that the government will give careful consideration to all the concerns expressed on this important issue." That is the final paragraph of his letter to this concerned constituent.

This bill is not giving true consideration to all the concerns. I would remind the parliamentary assistant that when we held public hearings on Bill 141 in January, I think about 85 to 90 per cent of the organizations that appeared said the present bill did not provide equal pay for work of equal value. They asked that that section of the bill be scrapped and replaced with a section that would provide for the principle.

This is what we have done by the amendment of the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie). All those women's groups—and some groups which represent both men and women, including a great number of trade union groups, business and professional groups and community organizations—asked for the principle of comparing dissimilar work.

The Equal Pay Coalition, which represents a large diversity of organizations and contains both men and women in many of those organizations, speaks for approximately three million people in this province. It was one of the chief groups appearing before those hearings. It definitely said: "This is what the women of Ontario want. We should end the discrimination in the work place, where women are paid less than men, partly because there are no similar jobs in their work place to which their job can be compared."

Some of them are also being discriminated against because they are in jobs where the promotion opportunities and the training and retraining opportunities are not as great. As a result, they do not move up the ladder.

There are all these causes of discrimination. If we implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, we will make it possible to obtain what is really justice for women. They should be paid the same rate if their work is judged to be of equal value.

I would like to read into the record the groups that did appear before those hearings. First, I would like to say those hearings were held only because the New Democratic Party insisted we have an opportunity for public input on this bill to find out what the people of Ontario really want.

As the members will recall, the bill was introduced in the fall of 1983. There was pressure to put it through before Christmas but without public hearings. It was in a state where it did not implement the principle with which we are concerned. As a result of pressure from our party there was resistance to the suggestion that the bill should go through as is if we wanted to obtain the benefits in the bill for people on maternity leave and the new benefits for people on adoption leave. We resisted the proposal that we had to put it through without public hearings.

We felt it was important also to have public hearings. At the risk of having the bill withdrawn, which was the threat that appeared to be coming forward, we insisted on public hearings. The public hearings were held in January at a time of the greatest inconvenience to the public one could think of. They started on January 9, the first full week after New Year's.

3:20 p.m.

The notices advertising the hearings went out to the newspapers in December. Most groups were not likely to see the notices over the Christmas-New Year's Day holiday season. If they did see them, they were not in a very good position to prepare extensive briefs when a great many of their staff were on holidays or work weeks were shortened.

However, in spite of that, 19 groups came out that were in favour of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and only five groups came out that were opposed. The hearings proved conclusively that there is a very strong demand in the province for equal pay and that the government is ignoring the demand at its peril.

We have heard a lot about the gender gap and the change in women's voting patterns. The government's failure to move in this field after

promising action for more than 10 years is likely to have a big effect on the gender gap in the voting support for the Conservative Party in this province.

Let me read the list of the 19 groups that came out and spoke at those public hearings in January: the Organized Working Women; the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; the North Bay Women's Resource Centre; the Sudbury Women's Centre; the Confederation of Ontario University Staff Associations; the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation; the provincial status of women committee of the OSSTF; the National Committee for Independent Unions; the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Ontario; the Young Women's Christian Association; the Ontario Federation of Labour; the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario; the Ontario Status of Women Council, which is a government-appointed body; the Office and Professional Employees union; the Ontario Public Service Employees Union; the Equal Pay Coalition; the Toronto area caucus of Women and the Law; the Canadian Association of Women Executives; the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women, which is a voluntary organization, as opposed to the government-appointed one with a similar title; and the Ontario Nurses' Association.

We had representatives of a wide number of professions, occupations, women's groups and groups that have both male and female members. They all felt it was a matter of justice to see that we did have equal pay for work of equal value in this province. They felt it was time the women of this province stopped subsidizing their employers by being paid at less than their actual value in comparison with other workers when compared on the four criteria of responsibility, effort, skill and working conditions.

I would like to ask the parliamentary assistant if he can tell us why we have not been able to persuade him so far to adopt our amendment.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, in the four or five days of debate we have undertaken on the amendment, we have had many discussions of the specific points and the philosophy back and forth among the members about the government's approach to the equal value question as opposed to the proposal put forward by the honourable member from the third party.

As I indicated in May, when we were talking about this, I fully appreciate both the depth of commitment and the length of commitment that the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has put into this question, and I very

much appreciate the contribution she is making to the debate.

I hark back to a point the member made when she spoke of the wording in the International Labour Organization document on the question. That document speaks of bringing about equality for men and women in the work place in areas of equivalent work. I also hark back to the wording in our Bill 141, as unamended, in which we say that no employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall differentiate between his male and female employees where substantially the same kind of work is being performed.

Where we part company with the member for Beaches-Woodbine is that we feel it is time to proceed in the evolution of bringing about the equality of men and women in the work force at this point where a meaningful comparison can be made of the two types of work. This would be done, of course, through the composite approach we are proposing whereby the effort, skill, responsibility and working conditions of the two jobs would be compared both in the aggregate and individually. We feel that we are broadening the net quite considerably in the comparison of these types of work and that we will, through this legislation, take a very positive step forward in closing the gender gap.

I remind the member again, at the risk of going over territory we may have covered three or four weeks ago—and this has been stated by both the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay)—we as a government are committed to bringing about equality in the work place for men and women, we are committed to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and we are committed to working towards that ideal in stages—

Mr. Wildman: At a snail's pace.

Mr. Cassidy: When? In 2090?

Mr. Wildman: Empty promises.

Mr. Gillies: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I am being heckled viciously by the departing member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman).

Mr. Rotenberg: That shows how much interest he has in the subject.

Mr. Gillies: I will not comment on that.

We are committed to this and we want to go about it in steps so we can see that what we are doing is workable and enforceable. This is why it is very important that, as we introduce Bill 141 and the equal pay provision we include in it, we will be increasing the complement of the employment standards branch to enforce these

regulations. There will be five more employment standards officers working exclusively in this area to enforce and make meaningful what we do in Bill 141. There is a lot of evidence to suggest—and this has been stated by various members of both opposition parties—that the enforceability and the enforcement of what we do are just as important as what we actually do and say in the bill or in the amendment.

While we certainly endorse and will be working towards the principle of equal value, we do have some residual concern about the workability of the comparison of dissimilar work. As I am sure the member for Beaches-Woodbine knows, with Bill 141 we are by no means closing the door to any future initiatives; we are not stopping our consideration of this matter at all. In fact, studies in various areas of the question of equal value are going on now, and we may see the results of some of them in the months to come. We will continue in that direction.

As I stated earlier in the debate, there are many areas in the New Democratic Party amendment that I can hardly criticize, because they are included in our bill; and I could go point by point through the number of things the member for Hamilton East has put in his amendment that are in our bill. But we should be very clear that where we part company with his amendment is on the first subsection, which I am afraid is a different approach from the one the government is prepared to take at this time.

Having said that, and speaking very briefly to the member for Beaches-Woodbine again, I note she commented on the public hearings in January, some of which I attended as a member of the committee, and at a couple of points in the stead of my minister, which I was very pleased to do.

The member made the point that she felt there was insufficient notice and that perhaps some groups did not come forward to the hearings that would have come under different circumstances. I hope that is not the case. I was as impressed as the member was that some 24 groups did appear and, as she said, many of them stated their preference for across-the-board equal value for both similar and dissimilar types of work. Many of those groups had the opportunity to express their views.

3:30 p.m.

The government has carefully considered the arguments made by every delegation and by every individual who appeared. I want to assure the member that those arguments were carefully

considered in the progress of Bill 141. Just as important for the member because of her commitment in this area, those arguments will still be considered in the future as the government revises the bill and as we move towards the goal of equality for all people in the work force which we have endorsed on this side of the House.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I want to respond to some of the comments of the parliamentary assistant. He says it is staged progress. I think my leader called it stage-managed progress because it is an attempt to indicate that something is happening when nothing is happening.

One has to look at the history of it. Back in 1973 this government brought out a green paper called Equal Opportunity for Women in Ontario: A Plan for Action. It was signed by none other than the member for Brock (Mr. Welch), who is now the Minister responsible for Women's Issues and who happened to be the Provincial Secretary for Social Development at that time. The report he signed said they would examine the idea of broadening the concept of equal pay with a view to considering the concept of value. That was in 1973.

In 1975 there appeared to be some progress. The government set up a steering committee in the Ministry of Labour as part of an ongoing program to improve equal pay legislation and its enforcement. That sounded like a good move. They set up two subcommittees of that steering committee, one to deal with short-term planning on how to upgrade the services of the department and one to look at equal pay for work of equal value.

I have a copy of the equal value committee's final report, which came out in 1975 or 1976; I am not sure which, because there is no date on it. It refers to a series of meetings that started in April 1975.

About five of the people on that committee were officials of the Ministry of Labour, and the others were outside people: Mr. H. Jain of the faculty of business at McMaster University; Miss M. Eberts of the faculty of law, University of Toronto; Miss Iona Samis of the Ontario Status of Women Council, and Miss C. Morrison of the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women.

It also included the director of the legal branch of the Ministry of Labour; the chairman of the women's bureau, Ms. Marnie Clarke, who was the chairperson of that committee; a research person from the Ministry of Labour; the assistant administrator of the employment standards office, and a person from the women's bureau.

Those nine people brought out a report of the equal value committee in 1975 or 1976. Believe it or not, they were so convinced that equal pay for work of equal value was essential that they drafted an amendment to the Employment Standards Act which they put into their report.

Let me read the proposed amendment to section 33 of the Employment Standards Act. "No employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall differentiate in the wages paid or to be paid to a male and a female employee in the same establishment by paying a female employee less wages than the wages paid to a male employee or vice versa where the work of the male and the female employees is substantially equivalent upon the basis of the composite of such factors as skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions, except where the employer establishes that the differentiation is based upon"—and there are the usual exemptions—"a seniority factor, a merit factor, a factor that measures wages by quantity or quality of production and a reasonable factor not related to sex."

I may say that two committee members wanted to drop the merit factor and the reasonable factor on the grounds that it is very difficult to say what is reasonable. Anyway, it was an amendment to the Employment Standards Act of which this committee came out in favour and about which it made some interesting comments in the text of the report.

First, the committee defined very carefully what equal pay for work of equal value is about. It said:

"Basically it would extend present equal pay laws to unlike jobs in the same establishment.... The following illustration clarifies the impact of such legislation.

"In a factory there are 27 employees. There are 25 women, all skilled sewing machine operators, all earning between \$2.40 and \$2.60 an hour." This is back in 1975.

"The two men in the establishment work on basic maintenance jobs. They wash windows, sweep floors and clean machinery. They both earn \$3 an hour.

"Under present legislation the women could not lodge an equal pay complaint since they do not do substantially the same kind of work as the men. Under equal pay for work of equal value legislation, the two jobs of sewing machine operator and maintenance worker could be compared on specified criteria, even though they are unlike work."

That is a clear-cut definition of the difference in the kind of legislation that our amendment proposes and the kind that was in the act then and which will still be in the act after Bill 141 is passed, unless it is amended.

I also want to read one further paragraph of this report, where the committee pointed out the value of this concept in extending the whole picture of equality in the work place. It said:

"As well as extending the concept of equal pay, the still rigid ideas of men's jobs and women's jobs may be eliminated as an offshoot of such legislation. Traditionally, all female work categories will no longer be outside the equal pay laws. As the value of such jobs is recognized, remuneration will increase and hence the job's desirability to men as well as women."

This committee was aware of the good side-effects of bringing in equal value legislation and its general effect on the position of both men and women in the work place.

I want to remind the minister that was not the last time the ministry looked at the concept of equal pay, but it kept getting more and more conservative. It would have seminars on the subject, such as the seminar held in 1978, from which was produced a book called *Equal Opportunity Issues and Options*, which has a great many very good papers in it but which came out with no recommendations on either side of the question.

One of the speakers was Mike Skolnik, then assistant director, administration, of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. His conclusion was:

"It is unlikely that there will be significant progress in the direction of equal pay for work of equal value without strong government action, including provision of adequate resources and possible legislation."

3:40 p.m.

He has summed up the reason we do not appear to have any action: the government is not prepared to bring in the legislation or to put the resources that are necessary in place in order to implement that legislation.

The parliamentary assistant says it would be too difficult to implement. We know it is being done in Ottawa, in Quebec and in a great many other jurisdictions. It does not involve Big Brother going into every plant and telling them they must have this or that kind of job evaluation scheme laid down by the government. It means going in and working with the management and the workers in a plant, starting with the current

evaluation system, and if there is sex bias in it taking that out. That is all it involves.

It would be done gradually, on complaint from employees. The officials who are skilled in evaluating pay and compensation would go in and work with the people in the plant to develop a system that fits their particular plant. For the smaller firms, it would be a very simple system.

The Young Women's Christian Association appeared before our committee in January and gave us an exact model of how they have worked out an equal value job evaluation system for their employees. It was relatively simple, was understandable by the employees, was developed by both the employees and the management together and it had been working successfully for several years.

It seems to me the government is hiding behind two concepts as the reasons this cannot be implemented. One is that it is too difficult, although other jurisdictions have shown that is not the case; and the second is that it is too bureaucratic, which is another thing that has been dispelled. It can be tailored and adjusted to circumstances of the firm. The third reason, really the bottom line, is that the government thinks it would cost employers too much. That is what they are protecting: that the province's employers should have the right to cheap labour and the women of this province should continue to subsidize the employers.

Is the parliamentary assistant acquainted with this equal value committee report of 1975? Has he not studied their arguments as to why this concept would really improve equality in the work place in this province?

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, to reply to the honourable member, I believe I am familiar with that report. I have read many reports on this subject in the last couple of months, but I believe this was the one published when the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) was the Minister of Labour. As I recall, that report was followed up by a discussion paper. As I further recall, that paper made no recommendation arising out of the report. So I believe we are talking about the same document.

The report certainly makes its arguments very well. I also remember well—as the member for Beeches-Woodbine recalls the delegations appearing before the committee back in January—a very impressive presentation by the YMCA and the YWCA. I took part in the discussion of how they had implemented that model over the years within their own shop.

However, in implementing equal value throughout an entire jurisdiction where the whole marketplace is covered, the only experience in Canada to which we can look and from which we can draw is Quebec. The federal legislation only covers federal civil servants and those companies and concerns which are federally regulated, but the bulk of the marketplace, province by province, will fall under the labour legislation of the provincial jurisdiction.

As we discussed some weeks ago, we have some concerns about the effectiveness of Quebec legislation. In particular, their success rate in improving the adjudication of cases under their new legislation appears, from the information I have, to be singularly lacklustre. I have seen estimates that as few as a half a dozen cases involving a very few people have been adjudicated under the new Quebec legislation that could not have been addressed just as well by the old legislation.

We do have concerns as we move towards implementation of an effective model for bringing about the closure in the gender gap that we all want. We do have some concerns about adopting holus-bolus the Quebec model when we have some doubts about it, and have some feeling that through careful consideration and implementation we in Ontario can do much better.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, I would like to join in the debate. I am not sure if the word is parliamentary or not, but I must say an awful lot of what the parliamentary assistant is saying, and we normally get along fairly well, is hogwash. He keeps coming up with all kinds of excuses for inaction. I have put down a few quotes here.

He said: "We have residual concerns about the workability. We are taxing our brains in order to find solutions. There has been slow progress in resolving cases in Quebec." He automatically assumes Ontario would be unable to learn from the experience of Quebec in order to have more effective implementation of laws here.

He said, "We need an effective model for closing the gender gap before we go ahead." That really means the government is going to prevaricate to the maximum extent possible. It is going to look around for every possible excuse to avoid bringing equal pay for work of equal value into Ontario. Any time women, through the Ontario Status of Women Council, through local political meetings or in other ways, raise the issue, the government will say: "We are looking at it. We are really trying hard."

Perhaps it indicates the lack of brain power over on the government side that they are taxing

their brains in order to do what seems to us to be so obvious. This is a case where one has to learn as one goes, but it is much better to go forward and take the steps as they come than to try to devise an ideal model of ideal legislation with a view to implementing it in time for Ontario's tricentennial; presumably in the year 2092, since I hope by then we will get the year of the bicentennial right.

That is not good enough. I would argue it is not good enough not only because of the need to deal justly and fairly with women who are looking for equality in the work place now, but also in sheer political terms. It is about time the Conservative Party in Ontario woke up to the gender gap, woke up to the fact its federal colleagues have found themselves on the wrong side of the gender gap, precisely because of lack of credibility.

This Conservative government in Ontario is undermining the situation for Brian Mulroney. If the Liberals were somehow to hang on to power in the next federal election, much of the reason would be because of the gender gap, which is engendered in large measure by the refusal of this government to give any sensible leadership on this issue.

I have said that what the parliamentary assistant talked about was hogwash. For example, for a number of years in Falconbridge and at Inco in Sudbury, they have had co-operative job evaluation systems that put the work of men and of women on the same basis, whether they are working in an office, on the surface or underground. One of the interesting results of that is women who are working as accounting clerks, as personal assistants or as secretaries, doing the kinds of jobs that have been seen as being typical for women, are earning the equivalent of men who work underground. In some cases, the women are earning \$20,000 or \$25,000 a year, because that is what a proper co-operative evaluation has yielded as what their jobs are worth.

When a Conservative government scratches its head and says: "We cannot do these things now. It is far too difficult for us," it is, as the member for Beaches-Woodbine has repeatedly pointed out, because the Tories are protecting employers in Ontario. They are protecting entrenched discrimination against women in Ontario. One way, not the only one, of breaking out of that would be the amendment that has been put forward by the member for Hamilton East.

3:50 p.m.

What on earth are the residual concerns about its workability except the concern that one thinks

it might hit some Conservative contributors in the pocketbook if they had to stop exploiting women and start paying them a decent and fair wage? That is the residual concern. The government's residual concern may be that it does not want to put government people in to enforce a decent and effective law. Maybe that is the kind of concern the government has.

So the government adds three, four or five people here. It applies a bit of cosmetics to try to make it look good. It will be something that will get it through another election.

It is interesting to me that the government's position actually falls short of the position that has now been taken by the party's federal leader. It was just a week and a half ago that Mr. Mulroney made a speech to more than 2,000 women; at a Lunches With Leaders session at the Harbour Castle, I think it was. He stated: "We, as a party, are committed to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value." However, maybe this is where he shares perceptions with his Tory buddies in Ontario; he said the problem is one of enforcement, whatever the devil that means. That is talking out of both sides of one's mouth, from what I can see.

None the less, at least Mr. Mulroney, on behalf of the federal party, said he was in favour of the principle. That is something I have not heard from the Premier or this government up until now.

The parliamentary assistant is a bit more bold about these things. He says: "We are moving along in that direction." He does not tell us the markings on the speedometer but I would suggest we are moving along an inch or two at a time rather than at any appreciable pace that would yield justice for women in the near future.

In the past four generations, women's pay has been set largely by a market test, I would suggest. For various reasons, including the physical superiority—the size, brute force of men or whatever it is—the market test was one where women were exploited and paid substantially less than men for equivalent types of work. We have concluded that market test—by we I mean members on all sides of the Legislature—is no longer fair. It is no longer fair just to have the rule of the powerful, the economically powerful or the physically powerful, determining that women will earn 60 per cent of what men will.

I am not just citing the vote that was taken last October in this Legislature on the equal pay for work of equal value resolution. The current legislation, which we are seeking to amend today, already strays from a market test. It says

that where one has a man and woman doing the same job, they will not be paid according to what the market might dictate but that they should be paid equal pay for equal work.

The government's draft legislation, the legal project before us today, says it wants to broaden that aberration, that departure from the market test. That, I believe, is to be supported in the sense that it is at least better than what we have had in the past. We are saying that if the government is not wedded to the market—thank goodness it is not that backward—then surely it should be prepared to consider our proposal. Not only should it consider it, but it should also be prepared to implement the move we have proposed in the amendment from the member for Hamilton East. That amendment would ensure that where jobs were different but equivalent, women would be paid the same as men for doing those kinds of jobs.

Of course that is straying away from the market, but the government is already doing that. The parliamentary assistant or the government's spokespeople cannot get up in this Legislature and say we must let the market decide, because the government has decided to abandon the market in this area.

That is not an innovation. The government has abandoned the market by endorsing the principle of the minimum wage. It may not be high enough—it certainly is not. Nevertheless, once it has a minimum wage in legislation it is saying it is illegal to pay less than that even if market forces might create certain jobs that paid considerably less than the minimum wage.

When I spoke a month ago in this debate I pointed out that the historical pattern of pay for women, and this went back to biblical times, has pegged women's pay at about 60 to 65 per cent of that paid to men. I said the ghettoization of women into secretarial jobs, into retail jobs, into clerical jobs, and into food service and housewifely functions was a fact of our economy.

I received something in my newspaper the other day—it was a federal brochure from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission with, I think, Mr. Robert's signature on it—that showed women in a number of nontraditional jobs such as welders and mechanics.

I was delighted to see the pictures, but the cruel fact is that when job openings are scarce and good job openings are even scarcer because of the depression that exists right now, it is damned tough to see a radical and rapid change in job distribution, such that women who are now ghettoized into a few occupations find them-

selves equally represented with men in high paying, skilled operations in construction, the machine trades and factory work.

It is not going to happen overnight, much as I would like to see it. If that is the case, we then have two choices. One is simply to continue to tolerate a situation where women doing important jobs with equivalent training, experience, responsibility, discretion and capacity to make mistakes, or whose mistakes are going to count—those are the kinds of criteria we look at—will continue to be paid very substantially less than men who have jobs with the same kinds of characteristics. Those are the choices. We either give equal pay for work of equal value or else we continue to enshrine the ghettoization for another generation, two generations or perhaps longer than that.

I am going to give an example of a situation I have recently been researching, and that is the area of banking. Some radical changes are taking place in the banking area because of technological change, administrative reforms and that kind of thing.

It is interesting that the Bank of Montreal, which I happen to deal with, has quite recently opened up a lot of managerial positions to women. That is the good side of it. At the same time, they have downgraded, deskilled and dequalified the managerial positions so women have achieved something which has turned out to be somewhat of a hollow victory. A manager's position at the Bank of Montreal now will often pay less than \$30,000 a year, because of the downgrading that has taken place, and will have no or next to no responsibility for lending, in particular for commercial lending which traditionally has been one of the major parts of that role.

At the Bank of Montreal at the corner of Bay and Breda there were five full-time tellers a couple of years ago; now there are only two. There are a couple of automatic teller machines and three part-time tellers. At the Bank of Montreal at Bank and Cooper in my riding of Ottawa Centre, where I also deal, there were seven full-time tellers last August; now they have two full-time and five part-time tellers.

It does not take much guessing to realize that all those tellers are female. The bank managers' offices in these cases are no longer located in the premises that used to be used for the bank manager's office. That is occupied by a roving male honcho who comes in to handle lending and functions such as that. The bank manager now sits in a bullpen along with the other female staff.

She is responsible for everything that goes on there in administration, assignment and those kinds of things, but her job has been downgraded and made much more like that of an office manager than that of a traditional bank manager with pinstripe suit, cigar and large belly.

I said that because these things are happening in an important area that accounts for a substantial amount of women's work. Women were less than half of the banking staff back in 1960. Today they have moved up to be about two thirds or three quarters of the staff of Canada's chartered banks, but that does not mean they have been able to move into better jobs for the most part.

4 p.m.

Now the new technology which is changing things is downgrading those jobs, the question one has to ask is what is going to happen? How can women even hang on to their present status if jobs are disappearing around them; if word processors are eliminating the jobs of secretaries and if automatic tellers are eliminating jobs or making full-time jobs into part-time jobs in the banking field? I do not know what is going to happen in the food service field, but these changes are happening all around us.

Will governments be able to respond quickly enough to indicate they understand the concern that women have out there about the fact that they may already stand in a position to lose anything they have gained over the course of the bitter fighting that has taken place in the last 10 or 15 years?

One of the reasons women's issues are beginning to be recognized as something that political parties have to look at is that women, even those who have succeeded against the disadvantages and discrimination they face, are recognizing they cannot do what they have to do alone.

We have seen some substantial changes in a few select areas. In architecture, in medicine, in law, in business faculties and in places such as that, there has been a very substantial increase during the last few years in the proportion of women taking those courses. But when they come out into the work world, they find that the plum jobs as surgeons, as extra-billing physicians with lots of prestige in medicine, go to men. Women who qualify as architects are forced to work as draughtspeople.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Wrong.

Mr. Mackenzie: There's God again.

Mr. Cassidy: What is this? My goodness.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not true. That is not accurate.

Mr. Cassidy: It is demonstrably true, as a matter of fact. The minister who is retired from medicine, the minister who is medicine's loss and the Legislature's loss as well by coming here indicates she does not think the high-priced specialist positions go to men. I would challenge her on that because she is dead wrong about it. I suggest maybe she should go back into medicine and find out for herself.

If one looks, for example, at the relatively low-paid physicians in the community clinics across the province, one finds a preponderance of those positions are taken by women doctors. Why is this? It is because even in the medical field, where women have amply proven their equality with men, there is a pecking order that puts men first. The minister's government supports this and the minister herself supports this because she supports the government.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No way.

Mr. Cassidy: Yes, she does. If she does not support it, then why the devil is she not supporting this amendment to establish equal pay for work of equal value?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If the member would speak from a factual base, I might agree with him in some instances, but he does not.

Mr. Cassidy: Fine.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member for Ottawa Centre has the floor.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, would you count the number of people here to see if there is a quorum?

Mr. Chairman ordered the bells to be rung.

4:07 p.m.

Mr. Cassidy: I thank all the Conservative members for coming in to listen to my speech.

Mr. Chairman, when we broke off for the quorum call, I was pointing out the difficulties created for women when they have been trying to achieve equality in the work place. They are finding that even what they felt they had gained has begun to slip away.

I had the chance last week to look into these matters in more detail. I was speaking at a conference on the impact of the information economy on banking and finance and, because of the proportion of women in that area, on women. There has been an enormous increase in productivity in banking over the course of the last 15 or 20 years, but that increase has not until very recently begun to have an impact in loss of jobs or transfer of jobs from full-time to part-time.

Between 1981 and 1983, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce actually shed 3,000 workers. It reduced its work force by 10 per cent with no loss in assets and no loss in business whatsoever. That suggests the beginning impact of all the computerization that has been running through the banking system for the past 10 or 15 years.

The banks use magnetically encoded cheques. All cheque clearing is handled automatically, once the cheque has been processed the first time. On-line banking is now a fact in all the major banks. All the major banks have automatic teller machines. When one stands in a line of 25 people, as I had to for a minute or two last week, and then thinks of the alternative of using an automatic teller, that teller becomes awfully attractive. That is certainly having an impact on women's jobs.

Automatic tellers can do from two to five times the amount of work of a human teller in the course of a month. An automatic teller's price is coming down, whereas, even if slowly, the wages of tellers are tending to go up.

We are just at the beginning of a whole new wave of automation and of automation in information handling that will affect not just banking but also finance in general.

Some members may have noticed in Canadian Tire stores that when the purchases are rung in, the cashier punches another detail, the product code, into the machine. The machine then spins out a record of what was bought, how much was paid for it, what the discount was and all those kinds of things. The information that is put in a Canadian Tire on-line cash register at that time goes straight into its inventory control, into its finance and accounting system, and is basically never again processed by human hands. That has all been wiped out.

Canadian Tire has certainly been a model of a very effective company, not only in this country but now also with its expansion into the United States. It has done extremely well. It manages its resources and inventories a heck of a lot better than most other companies in that industry, but in the process it is eliminating jobs.

We discussed last week, and this does pertain directly to women's opportunities, the fact that a tremendous number of things that are handled by clerical workers, financial workers, cashiers and such people now stand endangered by various forms of automation.

For example, if a credit card has to be validated, someone used to pick up a telephone and call a bank. That is not done any more. A

local centre is called that handles people from all the banks that do business in a particular community. Rather than telephoning in, the next stage is that the credit card will be run through a machine at the retailer's outlet. That will do for validation to ensure the person has enough money to pay for the purchases on credit.

The stage after that is that one will not even have to go and pay the monthly credit charge bill because a debit card will be given to the retailer, some personal identification number will be punched in and the individual's bank account will be debited instantly, as though cash had been paid. No cash will have to be counted, change hands or be totted up at the end of the day. No one will have to reconcile what the cash box says. It will all be done automatically.

This is important for equal pay for work of equal value because until now women's jobs have not been automated. They have been in the service sectors, which have low capital investment, and have therefore been in an area that has basically been labour-intensive, albeit poorly paid. We stand in risk of women's jobs diminishing in number as clerical, service and secretarial jobs become more and more capital-intensive but continue to be poorly paid. This is something the government's bill will effectively enshrine and continue.

The 1982 Statistics Canada figures with respect to the distribution of employment in different sectors indicate that 98 per cent or 99 per cent of construction workers in the country are male. In manufacturing, 80 per cent of the workers are male. I do not have the figures in front of me, but they are of these proportions. If one looks at clerical work, one will find that 1.67 million women are doing clerical work in Canada. I believe the figure for men is between 150,000 and 200,000. So 85 per cent or 90 per cent of the people doing clerical work in this country are women. We can guess how clerical wages compare to manufacturing wages or construction wages or managerial wages. They are pretty lousy.

What is going to happen on the impact of point of sale terminals, automatic tellers and all the other machinery that is coming in, such as word processors, electronic mail, electronic message systems? There is now available, and probably installed in certain government departments, a voice message system that effectively does away with the need for a secretary to pick up the phone and and say, "Mr. Gillies is not in right now." That can be done automatically. Most of the time

a message can be left for the individual without the need for a secretary's intervention.

With all this happening, we are going to see a drastic reduction in existing jobs. Are we going to see at the same time an increase in other jobs? The answer is, not very likely. It is sad to say, but experience suggests that. For example, I was looking at some figures last week that show that the growth in the 1970s in high-tech employment in the United States was negligible. It is not going to take place. If it does take place, the only jobs opening up for women will be assembly-line jobs which are semi-skilled or unskilled and which, once again, are badly paid.

What we are seeing effectively is the elimination of vast areas of work which have been occupied traditionally by women. What are we going to do about it? Will we simply allow the exploitation to continue? Because there is a larger and larger reserve army of unemployed women pressing for any job, will they be forced to take less and less in pay? Will we see a situation where the wage gap, the gender gap, between women and men starts to increase again after gradually, painstakingly, agonizingly starting to come together? That could well be unless some determined action is taken.

Those women who assembled 2,000 strong at the Harbour Castle Hotel, most of whom have made it on their own because of their spunk, ability and hard work, recognized that everything they have gained is in danger of being lost unless there is determined action by the government, and that action has to include equal pay for work of equal value.

The parliamentary assistant says: "We cannot be guaranteed that it is going to work. There are difficulties in defining equal pay." I agree with him; there are difficulties. In the end, we have to make some artificial judgements which say that someone who has 13 years of education and is doing a job at a switchboard or typewriter is worth as much as or more than someone who is hefty and strong and drives a big truck, but has not had to have a lot of education to take that job. In the end, it is a judgement call, but we make those judgement calls all the time. The market makes judgement calls about these things as well, and we have come to conclude that the market judgement calls are in error and we have to start to change.

Two or three years ago Maud Barlow started to campaign across the country in the case of the Playboy pay TV issue. What she had to say was that the conventional wisdom about what is acceptable in pornographic representation and

community standards has to be changed. What we are saying with the amendment moved by the member for Hamilton East is that it is damn well about time we focused not only on pornography issues with respect to the status of women but also on issues that affect women's working lives. The government has to deal with the issue of jobs for women as well and not just with the issue of pornography.

If we were to succeed in this province in wiping out pornography but still left women in a situation where they were economically as weak as they are today, we would not have made a heck of a lot of progress. One might call it a form of economic pornography, the exploitation of women that goes on when they are forced to accept wages and job prospects so much poorer than those of men.

Two weeks ago I held a meeting in Ottawa with a number of unemployed men and women. I want to read into the record the situations of two or three of them to indicate the vulnerability of women in the work force today. One of these people is an immigrant from Poland. She has a PhD in economics from the Sorbonne in Paris and is exceptionally brilliant. I was very impressed by this young woman in her mid-20s. I was appalled to learn that she has been in Canada for about nine months and has been unsuccessful in finding any kind of work.

Another person there was a government clerk-typist in her 50s. This woman had a job with the government of Canada which she thought was secure, but they eliminated some man-years or person-years in the federal government and suddenly she found herself out of a job. Ten months later she is still trying to find her way back into any kind of job with the federal government since that is a major employer.

The third person was a teacher, someone who had spent a number of years in the United States and came back to her native country. She is in her early 50s, a vigorous and competent woman with a lot of talents. She too had been out of work for 10 or 12 months.

They were all victims of the depression the government does not acknowledge exists. The government tells us in the words of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) that the recession is over. Certainly for these three women the recession or the depression is not over.

4:20 p.m.

What came through to me in this situation was that women are a particularly vulnerable group. It may be that in my lifetime that will continue to be, but certainly we in this Legislature have the

wherewithal, the legislative ability, to try to reduce those areas of vulnerability if we cannot eliminate them outright and overnight.

Women fall into many categories in which they stick out as being somehow different as far as employers are concerned. From my interviews with these three women and with males who were also facing long-term periods of unemployment, it seemed to me that if one was different in any way, it rendered one vulnerable in the work place today.

If one happened to have graduated from the University of Paris rather than from the University of Montreal, then one somehow stuck out as not having Canadian experience. If one was in one's 50s, despite the Ontario Human Rights Code and the equivalent federal legislation, somehow jobs never opened up. If one had come back from the United States and did not have a recent work career here, one stuck out. If one was of a different colour or racial origin, one stuck out.

We have taken legislative action with respect to discrimination in a number of areas. It seems to me that part of the purpose of the amendment today is to complement the action we have taken under such legislation as the Ontario Human Rights Code. Enshrining equality in Bill 141 seems to me to be at least one step forward.

Mr. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I would have thought the Tories would have been able to keep enough members in here. I would like to have a count for a quorum again.

The Deputy Chairman ordered the bells to be rung.

4:26 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: There is a quorum.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, before the honourable members abandon us again, I want to conclude by saying a few things about the symbolic importance of the amendment that is proposed by the member for Hamilton East.

I have to ask myself why the Ontario Status of Women Council, the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, women's groups, advisory councils on women's issues and so on have all insisted on and made a priority of the question of equal pay for work of equal value. The reason is that they recognize not only that it will be of concrete and substantial benefit to women but also that it symbolizes a commitment to equality for women that just has not been there, at least from this provincial government, up until now. They recognize that if the government does not do this, then it will simply

be playing around at the edges of the issue of equality for women in the work place.

They recognize that there are some difficulties with the implementation of the concept; but they also recognize that those difficulties will be ironed out only with practical experience. That experience is not going to be gained as long as we have academics, researchers and bureaucrats looking at the problem, trying to find different ways of prevaricating about it or delaying its inception instead of getting involved in the practical and specific problems of making an innovative form of legislation actually work.

I conclude by recalling that the federal Progressive Conservative Party has indicated its commitment to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. Maybe all this means is that it is not prepared to dismantle the existing federal law, I am not sure. But it seems to me that if a Tory is a Tory is a Tory, then it is about damned well time the provincial Progressive Conservatives got on board with Mr. Mulroney and showed that in this province the government of the day is prepared to act to secure this vital step towards safeguarding women's positions, towards ensuring greater equality and towards ensuring they are dealt with fairly and on an equivalent basis to men despite the gender gap and occupational discrimination or differences.

This government ought to show that it is prepared to take the move now and symbolically indicate to half the population of the province that they will no longer be dealt with on a basis unequal and inferior to that of men in the future.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few comments—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Let us ring the bells.

Mr. Cooke: When the numbers go out—

Mr. Martel: Just let a few more go out.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Give us a break.

Mr. Cooke: It could be worse.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Cooke: It could be worse; we could be listening to the minister's answers in question period rather than the bells.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Listen, if the member were not so averse to being informed—

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: Now I know of two things that are worse than the bells: the Deputy Chairman calling order and the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) answering questions.

The Deputy Chairman: Let us just listen to you.

Mr. Cooke: You are supposed to be non-partisan, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: I am saying you have the floor and it is my pleasure to listen.

Hon. Mr. Norton: At least the member has one fan.

Mr. Cooke: One fan; I am in really bad shape.

Mr. Laughren: That is true.

Mr. Cooke: These are my friends. What are we on? I would like to make—

The Deputy Chairman: It is the amendment from the member for Hamilton East on Bill 141, deleting section 1 and substituting another section for it.

Mr. Cooke: I knew that.

The Deputy Chairman: Equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr. Cooke: Right; Bill 141.

I want to make a few comments. I have not had the opportunity to speak on this bill either during second reading or in committee.

Interjections.

Mr. Cooke: It does not take much to throw me off; so, please.

I want to remind the Legislature of the bill that was introduced by my former colleague from Windsor, Ted Bounsall, who really got this issue on the political agenda in the Legislature. It was one of his major accomplishments when he was a member of the Legislature. I hope in the next election he will return with us.

What confuses me most about this issue is that I cannot understand how the Tories and the Liberals daily get up and present petitions in this Legislature supporting equal pay for work of equal value. They vote in private member's hour—some of them. The last time it came up most of the Liberals boycotted the Legislature so that the vote was lost. They say they support this issue in principle, but when it comes actually to voting on it or voting on amendments, they say it is impractical. When they say it is impractical, what they are really saying—

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: I do not know what the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) is talking about. He has made several statements.

The Deputy Chairman: How do they apply to a point of order?

Mr. Mancini: I said privilege.

The Deputy Chairman: That is different.

Mr. Mancini: He said something about my colleagues not being in the House for an important vote that took place on equal pay for work of equal value. The fact is that the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Coppins) introduced a resolution some time ago and all the members of the Liberal caucus stood and voted for it. My recollection is that there was quite a significant turnout.

The Deputy Chairman: Let me thank the honourable member.

Mr. Mancini: I am not quite finished.

Second, the statement that we are not willing to enshrine equal pay in this bill is not true. I am not sure whether the member was here some weeks ago when I moved a motion to enshrine that principle in the bill. It was voted on at the time and it was supported by this party. I do not want to accuse the member for Windsor-Riverside of misleading the House. In view of that, I thought it might be more appropriate to put the true facts on the record.

The Deputy Chairman: Thank you. That is one way of participating in the debate.

Mr. Cooke: I thank the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), but I do not know when he has ever known anything about the truth. I would like to put the real facts on the record. When we debated—

Mr. Watson: He is abusing his privileges again.

Mr. Mancini: Are you going to allow that?

Mr. Watson: I would not allow that. My good friend has been insulted.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I say to the member for Windsor-Riverside, we are speaking to Bill 141.

Mr. Cooke: Do not look at me. I have not been interrupting.

The Deputy Chairman: I ask you to speak to it, and the honourable members will have their opportunity to participate.

Mr. Watson: Our colleague has been insulted.

Mr. Cooke: The member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson) should talk about the truth.

The Deputy Chairman: Do not allow yourself to be distracted by these mild interruptions.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, we know the truth in Chatham is that the former mayor was going to run for the Tory nomination.

The Deputy Chairman: No, that does not pertain to the amendment.

Mr. Cooke: The present member of the Legislature worked against the incumbent mayor so he would not be challenged for the nomination.

The Deputy Chairman: I look forward to the member for Windsor-Riverside speaking to the amendment.

Mr. Cooke: I want to get back to Bill 141 and this particular amendment.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Cooke: I will refer back to when we voted on the bill of the member for Hamilton Centre. It was a bill presented on the subject of equal pay for work of equal value and she was the Liberal Party's own member. It was on this issue that the member for Essex South said they were unified. They strongly supported equal pay for work of equal value, not only in principle but also on its implementation.

The following members of the Liberal caucus were absent: Cunningham, Edighoffer, McEwen, McKessock, Riddell, Sargent, Eakins and Sweeney. Eight out of 33 members of the Liberal caucus were away for a bill that the member for Essex South said they felt very strongly about. It was their own bill, presented by the member for Hamilton Centre. Yet the Liberal Party boycotted a vote because it did not believe it in principle and its caucus is badly split on the issue of equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: I object strenuously to the suggestion that any of our members boycotted that vote. Many members of this Legislature have many things they have to do for their constituents that take them away from this assembly. It is not proper to describe someone who is absent as boycotting this legislation. I will not accept it, and I think the member should withdraw that statement.

The Deputy Chairman: I ask the member for Windsor-Riverside not to impute motives on the part of other members in the House and to withdraw that reference.

Mr. Cooke: All right. I will withdraw the word "boycott." I will say they did not consider the issue to be important enough to vote on it. Instead, they were absent from the Legislature on a very important vote.

When another vote came up last year on the issue of equal pay, a bill that was presented by my leader, the member for York South (Mr.

Rae), the same eight members were away again: Cunningham, Edighoffer, McEwen, McKessock, Riddell, Sargent, Eakins and Sweeney. I guess it was just a coincidence that they were doing something very important on both votes. But in addition to them, Boudria was away, O'Neil was away, Spensieri was away, Worton was away, Ruston was away—

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Windsor-Riverside should know we normally refer to a member by his constituency.

Mr. Martel: The member can say what he wants. Please do not interfere.

The Deputy Chairman: I do not want to play games.

Mr. Gillies: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I tried to listen very patiently to the contributions—and I use that word in quotations—from the members of the third party this afternoon. But we have over here Mr. Paul Hess, the head of the legal department of the Ministry of Labour, Mr. John Scott, the head of the employment standards branch, and Mr. Simon Armstrong from our research branch. They are very busy and very responsible people within our ministry.

The sum total of the contribution to this so-called debate by the member for Windsor-Riverside this afternoon has been a number of procedural tricks—

The Deputy Chairman: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Gillies: —quorum calls and absolute nonsense.

The Deputy Chairman: The member will sit down. That was not a point of order.

Mr. Gillies: I resent that.

The Deputy Chairman: I am saying the member for Brantford will resume his seat. That was not a point of order.

Mr. Martel: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

The Deputy Chairman: I hope this one is.

Mr. Martel: I have sat here patiently watching as you have entertained a point of order over here, a point of order over there, and neither one of them was. You allowed this drivel to go on; it has nothing to do with the bill. I appreciate the fact that Mr. Hess is here, Mr. Scott is here and so on; but everybody and his dog can be here and it has nothing to do with the bill. Yet you accepted—

The Deputy Chairman: No, I did not accept it.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Martel: You and I both knew the member for Brantford did not have a damned point of order, and you let him do his rant. He did his rant for two minutes on every conceivable topic going except the bill.

The Deputy Chairman: I did not rule that as a point of order any more than I accept yours as a point of order.

Mr. Martel: You should have ruled him out of order, because you knew it was not a point of order, a point of privilege or even a point of information.

The Deputy Chairman: Thank you. The honourable member will take his seat. That is not a point of order either.

Mr. Martel: That is not even a point of view.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Windsor-Riverside has the floor, and I rule you out of order as well. Take your seat.

Mr. Martel: Do not talk to me like that either. You allowed the boy wonder to come in here. Look at the boy wonder.

The Deputy Chairman: I ask the honourable member to resume his seat.

Mr. Gillies: If you want to have a filibuster, get your members in with something to offer instead of wasting the time of the House with nothing to offer.

The Deputy Chairman: The honourable members will resume their seats.

Mr. Martel: Batman's assistant. Just cool it, young fellow.

The Deputy Chairman: I ask the honourable members for the third time to resume their seats.

Mr. Martel: You are getting tough with me now. You allowed all this nonsense to go on and now you are chastising me. You recognized him and allowed him to go on ad infinitum.

The Deputy Chairman: We are listening to the member for Windsor-Riverside and I would like the proceedings to continue.

Mr. Martel: Why did you not sit those birds down then?

The Deputy Chairman: All members will pay attention.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, I apologize if the truth is embarrassing to both the Liberals and the Conservatives. The point I was trying to make is members of the Liberal Party get up and say they support equal pay for work of equal value, they support it in principle and they want it implemented, but when the crucial vote came 15 of their 33

members were absent for the bill presented by the member for York South. I suggest that in itself proves the point I am making. The members of the Liberal Party are split badly on this issue. Half of them do not support the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and the only people who get—

Mr. Ruston: That is completely misleading the House.

Mr. Martel: Whoops. I just heard my friend say my colleague is misleading the House. I ask you to make him withdraw.

Mr. Ruston: He knows he is.

Mr. Martel: The member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) is going to withdraw before he is finished.

Mr. Ruston: I might if the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) sits down and shuts up for a while.

The Deputy Chairman: Would the member for Sudbury East please be seated. Would the member for Essex North like to keep within the parliamentary tradition of this House and withdraw.

Mr. Ruston: I will withdraw those words for the present.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable member.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: With regard to the member for Windsor-Riverside, I want to look up the Votes and Proceedings where I think the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) had a motion to help the people in the north. I want to look up the count. How many people in the New Democratic Party supported that motion in the vote? I think it was nine out of 22.

The Deputy Chairman: Everyone can participate in this debate. The member for Windsor-Riverside is trying to continue and we would like to give him every opportunity to do so. You have the floor, speaking to the bill.

Mr. Cooke: I am trying to speak to the bill, but when the member for Essex North and the member for Essex South get up and interrupt and then the parliamentary assistant, who, like all parliamentary assistants, lines his pockets with the little bit of extra money he gets as parliamentary assistant, it is very difficult to continue.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Windsor-Riverside is speaking to Bill 141.

Mr. Cooke: We know what the members of the Liberal caucus feel on this issue and that they

are divided. We also know what the members of the Conservative Party feel and think about working people and working women in this province. The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour is the one who got up in this Legislature or interjected in this Legislature and accused all members of labour unions of deliberately working overtime because they want to line their pockets rather than share in the work. That is a clear indication—

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: As he has been consistently since he first opened his mouth this afternoon, the honourable member is wrong again. I wait in anticipation for anything positive he has to add to this debate and I fear I will be disappointed.

The Deputy Chairman: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Martel: Is that a point of order?

The Deputy Chairman: It is not a point of order.

Mr. Cooke: I recognize it was not recorded in Hansard, but I did read the Brantford paper. I saw the headlines. The member made the front page; that was great. We, on this side, were really proud of him.

Mr. Gillies: The member should read the Windsor paper once in a while.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Cooke: I do; I read it every day.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The member for Windsor-Riverside will speak to the amendment.

Mr. Martel: It is a waste of time. You are letting them get away with it.

The Deputy Chairman: You are getting away with it too.

Mr. Cooke: The point I am making is when the members of the Conservative Party and the members of the Liberal caucus had the opportunity to go on record to support this principle in legislation, their numbers were not here to be counted. I think that speaks to—

Mr. Kerrio: That is not right at all. The members were here.

Mr. Cooke: —exactly where they stand on this very important issue. I suggest that when it comes down to it and we get this watered-down version of equal pay from the government, it again shows where this Conservative government is. The government's amendment to the Employment Standards Act will do nothing to close the wage gap between men and women in

this province. Through the back door, the Liberal Party is supporting the government on this issue.

As I stated before, we have been getting all sorts of petitions presented in the Legislature suggesting and demanding that equal pay for work of equal value be implemented in law in the Legislature. There are Conservative members who have the gall to present those petitions and then send their Hansards back to the women's groups and their constituents to give the impression they support the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. I think this kind of approach is nothing short of being hypocritical on the very important economic and social issue facing the people of this province.

I think we can look back on the record of this government, which was again supported on these two pieces of legislation by the Liberal Party—

Mr. Ruston: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I want to make the House aware that 10 members out of 22 were present to support the NDP resolution presented by Mr. Foulds for health care in the north.

The Deputy Chairman: No. That is not a point of order. We are going to have to have a definition of what is a point of order, a point of privilege and a point of information.

Mr. Eaton: Ten out of 22 is not even half.

Mr. Ruston: They boycotted the vote.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Ruston: He was the critic of the Ministry of Health and he was not even here.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. This does not seem to help. Will the member for Windsor-Riverside keep on trying? The member for Oshawa?

Mr. Breaugh: I want to help out. There seems to be some conflict here.

The Deputy Chairman: What point is this?

Mr. Breaugh: I think in replying to—

The Deputy Chairman: Is this a point of order, a point of privilege or a point of information?

Mr. Breaugh: It is a point of view.

The Deputy Chairman: It is not allowed.

Mr. Breaugh: I just want to put on the record that J. Earl supports that view.

The Deputy Chairman: No. The member will take his seat and we will ask the member for Windsor-Riverside to proceed.

Mr. Cooke: On a point of privilege, I will point out to the member for Essex South that on

that particular vote I had family commitments in Windsor. My brother was getting married.

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Is that all right for the member and not for others?

Mr. Cooke: Is the minister suggesting I should not go to my brother's wedding?

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Cooke: I will tell the House there is not much of an incentive to be here in this particular session. We go through question period and get no answers.

The Deputy Chairman: The member will not allow himself to be distracted by these remarks.

Mr. Cooke: There is no meaningful legislation before the Legislature. The government has made a mockery of this place.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Windsor-Riverside will speak to the amendment to Bill 141 moved by Mr. Mackenzie. Would you like me to read the amendment?

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: No, I know what the amendment is. I want to refer to two other pieces of legislation which have a very important impact on the wage difference between women and men in the work place. I think it is another indication of where the government is and where the Liberal Party is on this very important issue.

Bill 179 was brought in as a wage control bill. I sat on the committee. We had all sorts of people approaching us, talking to us and making presentations. They pointed out the effect of Bill 179 was to widen the wage gap between men and women in the work place.

Yet the Liberal—

Mr. Wrye: The member did not even let it come to a vote.

Mr. Cooke: The member's amendments were nothing but hypocrisy. Those amendments were just attempts to get off the hook because they would have done nothing to solve the problem between men and women.

Mr. Wrye: The member should not try to get off the hook.

Mr. Cooke: I know where I was on Bill 179. I was opposed to it and I am proud this caucus is opposed to Bill 179.

Bill 179 was responsible for widening the gap between what men and women got in the work place. The Liberal Party and the Conservative government can take credit for the fact women

are worse off today than they were before Bill 179.

Bill 111 was the follow-up to Bill 179. Again, the Liberal Party and the government supported Bill 111. By saying the overall average should be five per cent, it will pit women against men in the work place to try to get a fair share of that measly five per cent.

The record of the Liberal and Conservative parties is nothing short of disgraceful when it comes to trying to achieve equality in the work place. They have the nerve to come in here on the issue of equal pay for work of equal value and tell us they support the principle. The message is getting out that both of these parties are in the pockets of the chambers of commerce, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the other business groups in this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Wrye: What is this? Is this the member's left-wing speech to satisfy the two socialists in his riding? The member for Windsor-Riverside has been sitting next to the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) for too long.

Mr. Cooke: That might be true.

I did not plan to go on nearly this long. Had the Liberal and Conservative members not been so sensitive about their horrible past record, perhaps I would have only taken the five to six minutes I had originally planned.

I will be supporting the amendment presented by the member. When the final vote comes, I hope we will get a better turn out from the Liberal caucus.

Mr. Wrye: Was the member not there that day either? We already said we would.

Mr. Cooke: We will see how many show up.

In finishing up, I might present the statistics once again to the Legislative Assembly because the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) was not here.

When the crucial vote came up on the bill from the member for Hamilton Centre, the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham), the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen), the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) and the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) were absent. They were not here to vote.

When the vote came up on my leader's bill, those eight people were away in addition to the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria), the

member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri), the member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton), the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston), the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) and the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht). They were probably in their ridings meeting with the chambers of commerce and they were probably being further convinced that their positions—

Mr. Mancini: They had family obligations.

Mr. Kerrio: They were at the member's brother's wedding.

Mr. Cooke: No, I was here for these votes.

I thank the members for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to rise to support this amendment since our critic already put forward our position, but the member who just spoke reminded me of when I was Labour critic some years ago for the Liberal Party.

I remember my colleague, Margaret Campbell, then the member for St. George, and I were the vanguard in pushing for equal pay for work of equal value for women.

We had some hearings downstairs in one of the committee rooms. It was very interesting to me that the people violently opposed at that time were not the chambers of commerce and the boards of trade, but all of the bigshots in the United Steelworkers in Ontario. The people who run the NDP, the labour unions, were against extending any assistance to women at all.

Honourable members will recall the member for Windsor-Riverside rubbing his hands and saying, "We cannot really go along with that kind of stuff, after all." Now we hear our friends to the left falling all over themselves as if they were the ones who, as usual, thought of every good idea that ever happened. Their rhetoric reminds me of Russia where the Communists are always saying they invented the telephone and the television and every other good or bad idea that has come along in the world.

I thought we should put on the record that our Labour critic the member for Windsor-Sandwich and the member for Hamilton Centre had a resolution some time ago on this very issue, as members will recall. We are not here to take credit for anything; we are here to improve the legislation, to see that justice is done in this regard. I thought the members would be interested in some of the historical context, that the main supporters and the people who pull the strings for the party to my left were amongst those originally opposed to this kind of legislation.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Chairman, it is unusual to hear a member rise in his place and castigate people who are not here to defend themselves. I can only assume the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) has a memory that is more selective than the memory most of us have.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I do not blame the members of the third party for being embarrassed.

Mr. Laughren: I want to tell the honourable member I am extremely proud of the position on the rights of women taken by the trade union movement at the recent Canada Labour Congress convention. It intends to implement that position. I never hear of any bouquets being thrown to the trade union movement from the Liberal Party of Ontario. All I hear are attacks.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Everybody changes their minds and they obviously changed their minds on that one.

Mr. Laughren: I suppose we could now have a new lottery in Ontario designed to determine which Liberals absent on the last two votes will be absent on the next one and what correlation there will be between the positions taken on the previous votes. We will see how that works out. The commutations and permutations are truly mind boggling. However, I can understand they would be defensive and embarrassed about it.

I rise to support my colleague on this amendment. There is no question the Ontario government knows exactly what it is doing and why it is doing it. I would not want to wax ideological in this chamber, but in my mind there could even be a touch of ideology involved here, just a touch, that the pool of low-paid unemployed or potentially unemployed or employed is convenient for the system.

We know the Quebec government has a system of equal pay for work of equal value and the federal government has such a system. For this government to refuse to do it is simply making a statement that it is not prepared at this time to have a measure of equality in our society that we should no longer have to fight for. It should be there and accepted.

When the government insists that the skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions are criteria essential for the determination of value, that is really a ruse to avoid implementing any sense of equality.

5 p.m.

How will this make any improvement in any job ghetto in Ontario? How will it make any improvement in a situation that persists for female labour within the same plant or a different

plant? There is no way this will touch that problem. It is rhetorical for me to make the point since that is one of the reasons the government will not implement equal pay for work of equal value.

I suppose the parliamentary assistant will use the same language the Minister of Labour used. If I recall correctly, he made the point that employers cannot afford it. Correct me if I am wrong. Did he not say employers in Ontario cannot afford equal pay for work of equal value at this time?

I suppose the other side of that coin is that they need inequality to be profitable. Is that a legitimate need? Can we say that inequality is a legitimate need in the province to have employment? I do not understand how the government can argue one side of the argument, that it cannot afford equality, without arguing that it has to have inequality. It seems to me the minister has made that clear.

The government is not going to work its way towards a more equitable system if it does not combine the two things, mandatory affirmative action and equal pay for work of equal value. We must twin those two principles if we are going to achieve any equity on jobs.

I look at the Conservative members sitting there and I think, "Are they feeling any sense of pressure from society as a whole, not only from women's groups or committees, but from society as a whole; for example from their riding associations in their own communities?" Is there no sense of pressure from people saying, "We had better move on this"?

What are they stalling for? If they think they are going to wait for another six months or a year and then decide it is appropriate to introduce equal pay for work of equal value, people will see through what they have done. They will see they are simply attempting to buy female votes at the last minute.

I read very carefully the letter from Sally Barnes of the Ontario Status of Women Council. I do not know whether other members have put some of her specific comments on the record, but I want to quote a couple of paragraphs.

She said in her letter to the Minister responsible for Women's Issues on October 6, 1983, "As you will recall, when the members of the Legislature were last able to vote on the principle of equal value in 1979 on Ted Bounsall's private member's bill, members of all three parties joined in a voice vote to pass the bill on second reading." That was all three parties, including the government party.

She goes on, "I believe it is significant that, as far back as 1979, government MPPs voted in principle"—in principle is underlined—"for equal pay for work of equal value, and I believe it is absolutely crucial at this time that we do not lose the ground that has been gained so far on this issue."

I do not know how the government members interpret the phrase "that we do not lose the ground that has been gained." I think Sally Barnes was talking about the women's movement, but I suggest to the government members that she might also be talking about the political fortunes of the government.

Sally Barnes goes on to say: "As I have indicated to you on several occasions, my concern on this issue has always been one of implementation. I believe that if we can maintain and foster support for and commitment to the principle, we can continue to work towards the means of using this method of removing some of the discrimination and inequity women now face in the labour force."

I think that sums it up nicely. The members of the government party should think more seriously about that. They should think about what it is they are denying by denying equal pay for work of equal value. I was embarrassed when I read what the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development had to say about Canada. Canada is last in the industrialized countries in terms of the gap between men's and women's incomes. I do not know how the government members feel, but if I were part of a government, I would be embarrassed by a report like that. I see the guys over on the other side beating their chests as if they are proud they are at the bottom of the list.

I wonder sometimes how people like the Minister of Education can continue to sit in that government as a cabinet minister, knowing this and seeing the behaviour of her colleagues in cabinet and in the rest of the caucus. I do not know how she can be satisfied. It is beyond my comprehension. If we were to take that position, the member for Beaches-Woodbine would make life so intolerable for us that we would very quickly come around to the proper way of thinking.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am a very sweet and gentle person who makes life comfortable for everybody. Did you not know that?

Mr. Cooke: Except the students of Ontario.

Mr. Laughren: The Minister of Education has the capacity to make life unbearable for anybody, including her colleagues, if she were

upset about this. Believe me, she has the capacity to make every one of her colleagues feel uncomfortable if only she felt uncomfortable. Obviously, she does not. She is comfortable with this whole idea that the women in Ontario will not have put in place equal pay for work of equal value.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Equal pay for equal work indeed.

Mr. Laughren: The minister is quite satisfied, and I do not understand that. I do not know how she can sit there in complete satisfaction and not worry about what her colleagues are saying to her. She must get the message and so must the other women in the Conservative caucus. I would be terribly embarrassed.

If progress were being made, if the gap were narrowing dramatically and we were heading for equality, then perhaps the minister or even the parliamentary assistant could argue, "We are getting there in our way and we are getting there without offending anyone." The government is not getting there and it is offending a lot of people, such as half the population of Ontario.

It is not as if participation in the work force by women is a transitory thing. It is permanent and increasing. Despite that, the government sits there and says: "Do not worry. Equal pay for work of equal value is not called for at this time. It sounds good, but we are facing tough economic times and employers cannot afford it."

They say that at the same time that the Treasurer and the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) stand up and say how great things are in Ontario, how we are leading the recovery in Canada. They say that out of one side of their mouths, but out of the other side they say, "The private sector cannot afford equal pay for work of equal value." That is what they are telling the people of Ontario.

I would like to know which is true. If the recovery going on out there is substantial, does the government not think the women of the province have a right to a part of that recovery and that the appropriate time is now, if we are on the upswing, to implement equal pay for work of equal value? What is wrong? What is the government afraid of? Is it afraid the recovery is transitory? Is the recovery in question? What is bothering the government? It does not know. It sets up for sure what the problems will be; but it also sets up all sorts of straw persons and then kicks them or knocks them down.

5:10 p.m.

I can recall about 12 years ago getting involved in a number of questions concerning the rights of

women in Ontario. I can remember reading out in the chamber a long list of government boards, agencies and commissions, the total membership and the number of women on each of them. At that time it was not at all unusual to go through a whole list and find no women on any of them. That became an issue in the chamber.

What did the government do? It started putting on one woman here and two women there until the point came where one could not find an agency, board or commission that did not have at least one woman on it. Maybe I am exaggerating, but I doubt if one could find any now that does not. Are there some?

Mr. Martel: Token.

Mr. Laughren: I am told there are still some out there. I am surprised at that, but I am told there are some that still do not have women on them. What the government did then was transparent. It simply went out and put one or two women on them to silence the critics.

The fact remains that we still do not have a society in Ontario in which women have equal opportunity. They do not even have equal opportunity, let alone equity. There is a difference between those two phrases which I hope the parliamentary assistant understands.

All I can say to the government members is are they ever lucky the Minister of Education agrees with them. Do they know how doubly blessed they are that she has decided to let the women of Ontario live in a system where they do not have equity on the job? The Minister of Labour has decided that. The government members must go home every night and count their blessings that the Minister of Education has decided that is all right, because if she ever turns her wrath upon them, they will change their minds and we will have equal pay for work of equal value in Ontario.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member presumes too much.

Mr. Breaugh: No; we know her powers.

Mr. Laughren: I presume the minister has some influence in the caucus. I saw what she did with Bill 127. I saw the power of the minister at work. I am not guessing or presuming anything. I know the power of this minister. If she were to say to the cabinet and to the Premier, "We either get equal pay for work of equal value or I go public in opposition to you," I know that within days, minutes perhaps, we would have a statement by the Minister responsible for Women's Issues saying, "We have decided that perhaps it is time." He would say the fullness of

time has arrived and the government is going to bring in equal pay for work of equal value.

The Conservative government certainly has read the Minister of Education well and decided she will acquiesce and not speak out on behalf of her sisters in Ontario. I am surprised the feminists let her get away with that. I would have thought the business and professional women's clubs across the province would have exerted some considerable pressure on the minister. As a matter of fact, if I could sum up the Minister of Education's position on this, I would say she has engaged in gender malpractice.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You wait. I have a rusty scalpel for you.

Mr. Laughren: I have had that operation already.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was another I was thinking of.

Mr. Laughren: A little advertising never hurt.

Mr. Chairman: We have this rule, member, about not using language that will provoke.

Mr. Laughren: Have I broken any rules, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: No, it just provokes the interjections.

Mr. Laughren: I shall not go on, but I really do believe the time has not only come but has passed when we should be fighting for equal pay for work of equal value and for basic equality in the work place. I always thought mandatory affirmative action was almost a gentle demand to improve the lot of women in the work place. I think equal pay for work of equal value is a gentle demand. It is not at all strident. It is the kind of demand to which I would have thought this government could accede. It is not at all a radical demand. It would not transform the work place overnight either for women or for employers in Ontario.

What the government is really saying is that it is not prepared to put in place a system that at least works towards equality for women in the work place. That is what the government is saying; it is not saying anything else.

The government may think it is saying it does not want to impose any economic hardship on the employers of Ontario. That is an easy out on the government's part. This is not the kind of legislation that would impose economic hardships on employers. I am not saying there would not be reason for some alterations in the relative incomes of jobs out there, I know there would be; but that is the way it should be; that is necessary.

If it were not, we would not be calling for this legislation.

I really believe the day will come when the government will not be able to resist either mandatory affirmative action or equal pay for work of equal value. The trouble is that this government has learned over the years to resist, resist, resist. Then when the forces become irresistible, it gives in and tries to look like a hero when it thinks the time is appropriate.

We have seen that time and time again. That is the kind of game the government plays. In the meantime, while it may understand the politics of it and play them very cleverly, what it conveniently overlooks is what it does to people while the government is waiting for the particularly opportune political moment.

Mme Copps: M. le Président, ça me donne un grand plaisir de me joindre à l'amendement qui était projeté par le Nouveau parti démocratique. Je suis contente au moins que le Parti néo-démocrate, pour ce moment au moins, à pris sa décision de nous rejoindre dans les travaux que nous avons déjà faits à propos d'un salaire égal pour travail de la même valeur.

On sait déjà qu'il y a quelques semaines, quand on a introduit notre projet de loi, le Parti néo-démocrate a pris une position à quatre heures, une autre position à cinq heures, vers six heures il a pris une autre position à propos de notre amendement, qui était le premier d'être mis à propos de ce projet de loi.

Je suis contente que les députés même qui ont dit à quatre heures qu'ils ne pouvaient jamais accepter l'amendement du Parti libéral ont décidé à partir de six heures de l'accepter. Parce qu'on sait qu'en notre parti on fait des arguments qui devraient convaincre tout le monde, qui ont déjà convaincu le Parti néo-démocrate de nous joindre, et j'espère que nous pouvons convaincre le parti du gouvernement de donner l'appui à notre amendement aussi.

5:20 p.m.

I just wanted to reiterate that. First of all, I want to thank the New Democratic Party and I want to join them, of course, in supporting their amendment, as I wanted to thank them for finally joining to support our amendment. Some of those in the New Democratic Party have rather short memories. I am sorry the member for Windsor-Riverside is not here because, unfortunately, he was also absent the day the discussion on the Liberal amendment was embarked on in the Legislature. The New Democratic Party took one position at four o'clock, another position at five o'clock and by six o'clock had finally got its

collective act together and decided to support the Liberal amendment, even though some of their members said an hour earlier they could never support it because it was totally ridiculous and absurd.

I am glad to see they agree to support our amendment. I can understand why they have agreed to do that. It is because of the persuasiveness of the arguments that have been presented by our Labour critic and by other members within the party. I am sure the government side will be vulnerable to those same persuasive arguments which have been advanced by the Liberal Party as well as the New Democratic Party over the last number of days and weeks.

I am also sure the government will want to act immediately. I am glad the discussion of the Minister of Education was raised. I am sure the government will want to ensure, when it implements the total package of this legislation, that it will move first and foremost to correct an inequity that exists within its own civil service.

This is another instance of the government telling the people, the businesses and the employees of Ontario that it wants to make a move in a certain direction when it is not prepared to show leadership in that area. I am speaking specifically about the amendments to the Employment Standards Act and the current practice of this government regarding leave for parents who have adopted children instead of natural-born children.

The minister and members will no doubt be aware that the federal government passed amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act earlier this year to ensure that families who adopt children have the same rights to parental leave as is currently established under law for families with natural-born children.

Unfortunately, as is often the case, this government has not shown leadership in that area by moving immediately to amend its own personnel requirements. It should have moved to ensure that any civil servant who is the parent of an adopted child has the opportunity to take the same kind of fully paid parental leave as is available for parents of natural-born children.

The current government policy for parents who adopt their children allows six weeks with no pay. This comes from a government that is suggesting in this amendment to the Employment Standards Act that employers should be obligated to extend the same rights to employees who have a right to adoptive leave as to employees who have natural pregnancy and natural parenting leave.

This is a very clear and sharp example of where the government's stated policy is at total odds with its own current personnel practice. I am sure the Minister of Labour, when he becomes aware of this discrepancy in his own personnel policies, will move immediately to ensure that civil servants in this province, many of whom have the pleasure and opportunity of entering into adoption agreements, are accorded the same rights under the government's own personnel policy.

They should have the same rights as we now give to other employees, whose benefits we will be extending in respect to pregnancy leave. To suggest that parents of an adopted child are not entitled to the same provision under the law as natural parents is totally against the spirit of the amendment the Minister of Labour has introduced here.

I know the Minister of Labour, given his professed commitment to working people, is going to return to this House eagerly in the next few days with an amendment that will deal with this discrepancy in the law. I certainly encourage him to do so.

With respect to the amendments that are now on the floor regarding the whole issue of equal pay for work of equal value, we have had a number of very thoughtful presentations from a number of members, both on the government side and on the opposition side, trying to look for solutions to what we all recognize as the current gender ghettoization of salaries in Ontario.

The Minister responsible for Women's Issues, the Deputy Premier, may be very well intentioned in his suggestion that all the problems in Ontario's employment sector would be solved if women studied more maths and sciences, but I urge the minister to listen to his colleague the Minister of Education. She will no doubt be happy to apprise him of the fact that the women of Ontario, on average, are better educated than their male counterparts.

Unfortunately, the supposed link between lack of education and low-paying jobs does not bear out in reality. Most of us have, in our own constituency and legislative offices, legislative assistants—some would euphemistically call them secretaries—who are required to perform functions which include, in many cases, public relations. They often have to correct the spelling and grammar of members who may not have a forte in that area; they have to be diplomatic; they have to be jills of all trades and masters of none. Is the Deputy Premier suggesting to those women that they would be better off if they went out to

seek a nontraditional job on an assembly line where they could use their education to a more fulfilling capacity?

The point has been made time and again, relating to the issue of equal pay for work of equal value, that women will not seek equality in the trenches. Many of us who have an involvement with and an understanding of our immigrant community, for example, will realize that.

I have very many friends in my own constituency who have made their living by the sweat of their brow as employees for the city—who dig ditches, for example—or people who have jobs that have provided their families with a good living. They have said to their children, "I have come to this country so you might have the opportunity for something better."

If we are going to suggest to the women of Ontario that the way we can get ourselves out of the economic ghetto is by going into those nontraditional areas, we are taking a step back into the past rather than a step towards the future.

Members should look at the contribution made in the care of our children, for example. That is supposed to be, by all intents and purposes and by the proclamation of the government of Ontario, the greatest natural resource of Ontario. Let us take a look at the education we require of graduates of early childhood education programs. At present, in many cases they are required to have a two-year post-secondary diploma from a community college before they can be hired to work in an early childhood education setting or in a day care centre, often for minimum wage.

On the one hand, we as a government say our children are our most important natural resource. Any social scientist in the room will know Piaget and other eminent social scientists have clearly pointed out the most important formative years for a child are the years before they enter into the ordinary public or separate school stream. Yet we say to those, primarily women, who occupy the occupations of early childhood educators: "You are looking after our most important resource. You are required to have a two-year post-secondary diploma to carry out this function, yet you are going to be paid minimum wage because you are in an undervalued, genderized job where society is justified in paying you 63 cents for every dollar earned by your male counterpart."

For the minister and the government to suggest the problem is going to be solved by giving women greater expertise in the maths and

sciences, for example, is failing to recognize that, as a society, we have put women's value on the jobs perceived to be women's work.

In a formal way, we have to institute an opportunity for reflection and review where individuals and organizations across Ontario will be required to take a look at salary scales. I might point out for the benefit of those members who need convincing—and I am sure there are a few on the government side of the House—that the Toronto Young Women's Christian Association found that implementing equal pay for work of equal value in its organization actually led to more cost-effective service delivery. For the first time in the life of that organization, it had to actually sit down and decide in a constructive way why it paid what it paid.

5:30 p.m.

Whether we use the Hay formula or any other formula, equal pay for work of equal value is going to be a subjective job evaluation system. Currently, job evaluations are done in an extremely subjective way, and for us to suggest one subjective system can be replaced by another system that has been proved to be less subjective is totally ludicrous.

Although we had some indication earlier this year that the government was having a change of heart, I do not expect the government will come through and promise to implement the resolution it supported in a unanimous way last October. I think the government in one respect is missing the boat vis-à-vis the women of Ontario.

I urge the members on the government side of the House to take a look at trends that are currently developing in the United States regarding what is known as gender voting. If we look at the current president of the United States, we will know the disproportionate support he is receiving from the men of the United States is the only thing keeping him in public office. If we look at the difference in percentage terms of his support by men and women in the United States, we will know that 27 per cent fewer women than men support the policies of the current president of the United States.

We also know that kind of gender voting is developing in Ontario. I am assured the Ontario government has done extensive polling in this area so that it might make its decision on what kind of policy initiatives it is going to take.

On this issue, I think the current government has missed the boat. Notwithstanding a motion introduced by the Ontario Progressive Conservative Association of Women which supported equal pay for work of equal value, and notwith-

standing the initiatives not only of a number of labour interests but also of business and professional groups across Ontario in support of equal pay for work of equal value, the government continues to insist that throwing this sop in the embodiment of this piece of nonlegislation at the women of Ontario is going to shut us up.

The women of Ontario are not that foolish. I think it has been said that one can fool all the people some of the time but one cannot fool all the people all the time. I suggest that adage is doubly appropriate where the women of Ontario are concerned, the women who for too long have borne the brunt of the refusal by this government to adopt progressive economic policies that will allow women an early opportunity to start to bridge the gender gap.

Gunderson says that equal pay for work of equal value will not do it all. We know that no single strategy will do it all; however, we do believe that unless this government is prepared to bear the wrath of women voters entering into the next election, it had better come up with some kind of serious attempt to implement, at least on a pilot project basis within the public service, the resolution dealing with equal pay for work of equal value.

The staged progress promised by the minister, which endorsed policies introduced in this Legislature before I was born, is not the kind of response women's groups across Ontario expected when they came en masse to the Legislature to support the initiatives begun by this party last fall.

I urge the government side of the House to join with us and with the New Democratic Party in a nonpartisan way to work together to bring in equal pay for work of equal value, at least on a pilot project basis within the public service. I think we should take this issue beyond pure politics.

I know the government is going to be very concerned about the increasing trend towards gender voting in Ontario. I know the government is extremely concerned that the last province-wide poll showed that the majority of women who had a voter preference in Ontario supported the Ontario Liberal Party. I know that has this government running scared. This government has been trembling in its boots about the results of the so-called initiatives by the Deputy Premier which have been treated by women's groups across Ontario as a laughingstock.

I know the government of Ontario is somewhat disturbed when the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Ontario labels its legislation a

sham. The government has to have some fear and trembling when it realizes it is going against the policies of its own Ontario Progressive Conservative Association of Women.

I urge the government to rethink its position, to get back into the mainstream of thinking in the province, to get out of its antediluvian approach to economic equality and to join with the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party in endorsing an amendment that will at least begin to take women along the long road to economic equality, which has been waiting for us for far too long. I hope the government will consider its responsibilities in this regard very seriously.

I see the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) yawning. I know the hour is late.

The issue is important. I urge those members to join us in the fight we have begun for economic equality for women.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, let me start with the new boy in the back row, the member for Brantford, who is carrying the bill.

I heard the honourable member on the radio telling how he was supporting that other great piece of junk the government has before the Legislature at present, the freedom of information bill. He did not do it well; he did not convince anyone. It was like his performance on this bill this afternoon about poor John Scott and Paul Hess. I suggest he send them home, because we are not going to get done and the member will not need any answers from them.

I do not think they were disturbed by being here. They perceive this as part of their job. The Minister of Health used to come in with 45 staff in the Ministry of the Environment estimates. They were sitting there into the evening and they did not panic. It is only the new boy on the block who gets up here and gives us nonsense about tying up poor Paul Hess and poor John Scott. I am sorry. I apologize for tying them up. We regret it; but unfortunately, *c'est la vie*, that is the way it is going to be.

I want to tell the member that his performance this afternoon with respect to how we were delaying the passage of the bill was something to behold.

I wanted to talk to the member for Rainy River, but he is gone. When he was convinced about something and he wanted it changed, he spent seven hours in a filibuster to try to get it changed, whatever it was, some years ago. This afternoon he spent 30 seconds. Maybe that is the difference in the commitment.

As to where this bill came from, I could say I am amazed at the member for Hamilton Centre,

but I am really not. She plagiarized the bill and the resolution.

I have been here now for almost as many years as the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon). Over those years I have always been amazed at the positions taken with respect to labour by the Liberal Party.

Ms. Copps: It is not a labour issue; it is a people issue.

Mr. Martel: It is that great party that defends labour continuously.

Mr. Boudria: How well are you doing in the polls?

Mr. Martel: I do not worry about the polls. I was told I was a one-tripper 17 years ago. I am still here. It has been a long trip. If I played to the polls as some members do, I would have given up or would have sold out my principles, which I am not prepared to do.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Kerrio: Talk about the bill.

Mr. Martel: Most members started their comments by not talking about the bill. The member from Hamilton Centre told us how it was that the Liberals converted us on the road to Damascus. The real conversion in the votes, from where I have seen the Liberals stand over the last 17 years, is over there. There are only about two left-wingers in the whole group when it comes to labour, the member for Hamilton Centre being one of them. I have to give her credit for that. Genghis Khan is further left than most of the Liberals.

I want to get to the bill. I am glad the Minister of Education is here, because the thing that has amazed me in Ontario as I have watched over the years is that the teaching profession has managed to achieve equality in terms of pay, if not in terms of affirmative action. As one who negotiated for the teachers, I know full well that way back we insisted all teachers on staff get the same pay.

As a professional group we had some clout. It took a little while, but the difference between men and women, and there were some men getting paid for extra little titbits here and there—

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: Yes, but it has now changed. It still has to be changed in terms of affirmative action, so women have as many rights to some of the administrative jobs, principals and so on—we have a long way to go there—but in terms of basic salaries and increments, depending on one's qualifications, by and large they have achieved parity.

If we look at the medical profession, I do not expect female doctors to charge less than male doctors. They have the same rights and obtain the same rate of pay as men. The same applies to lawyers. These are the strongest unions out there. I know teachers do not like the word "union," because I used to belong to one association. They say, "Do not call us a union. We are a professional body, as are doctors and lawyers." That is a lot of nonsense.

Whatever word is used, profession or association, the important thing is they have power. Because of their power, women in those groups have parity. They have equality in base rates and everything up the line. They might not have affirmative action yet, but what we are talking about today is pay. They have achieved that because they have powerful associations. That is not so for the immigrant women who either do not have a union or have a union that is not strong. They have not achieved it. What is most frustrating, of course, is the government of Ontario has not seen fit to ensure that women have it.

I recall when this bill was introduced before Christmas my colleague and I met with the Minister of Labour and the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. We had a little chat and we suggested the bill had to go to committee. Heaven forbid. The government decided it was withdrawing the bill. They said we were opposed to women's rights, and used the same line we got a few minutes ago from the member for Hamilton Centre, "We have seen the light."

We insisted the bill should go so women could be heard, could present their views. The government did not want it at all. They threatened to withdraw the bill and called us everything in the book. They did not want to have to listen to the women's associations in the province. We have heard it all before: "The bill is a phoney piece of junk. It is not going to do a thing. We are going to reclassify and make it easier for some millenium down the road when we are going to decide that women are on a par with men."

We have not accepted that. If we had accepted it, there would not be a person in here voting against the amendment this afternoon or tomorrow or whenever we get to it. We do not recognize that women have equality in our society yet. For all the nonsense—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are superior to men.

Mr. Martel: Well, all right, you are superior. Then why are so many women getting a hell of a lot less pay than men? Where is the superiority

the minister talked about? All that most of the women I know want is equality in pay and so on. They are not looking for superiority; they are looking for equality, and it is Tories who do not want to give it to them in pay.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, bunk.

Mr. Martel: If it is bunk, then get up on your feet and demand that women get equality in pay in this bill.

Mr. Harris: Equality according to you.

Ms. Copps: A dollar is a dollar is a dollar.

Mr. Martel: No, in dollar terms. Would my friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) agree that there should be equal pay for work of equal value?

Mr. Harris: I ask, "According to whom?"

Mr. Martel: I just asked a question. Equal pay for work of equal value? The federal government has been able to come up with a definition, has it not?

Mr. Harris: I am really proud of the things the federal government has done—

Mr. Martel: Quebec. How many other provinces?

Mr. Harris: I am proud of these two fiscally responsible governments.

Mr. Martel: Is fiscal responsibility the end result? You achieve fiscal responsibility by depriving women of equal salary for work of equal value? Is that fiscal responsibility?

The Deputy Chairman: If the member for Nipissing wants to participate, he can stand up and speak in his turn.

Mr. Martel: I am amazed that you have obtained fiscal responsibility by depriving women of income. I ask my friend the parliamentary assistant who is carrying this bill, is that what is predominant in the minds of the Tories? Does he speak for that member and the Minister of Labour?

Interjection

Mr. Martel: That is exactly what you said.

Hon. Mr. Dean: No, it is not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not what he said.

Mr. Martel: Well, get up and contradict me then, because that is exactly what my friend said: "We have fiscal responsibility because we put the boots to the women."

Mr. Harris: I did not say that.

Mr. Martel: Sure you did, because without that fiscal responsibility women would have equality.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is sheer distortion and you know it.

Mr. Martel: Oh, I heard what he said, Bette. You should read Hansard, because that is what he said.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You might try reading it once in a while.

The Deputy Chairman: The Minister of Education—

Interjection.

The Deputy Chairman: No, more than that. Order. The member for Sudbury East may sit down. The Minister of Education will please withdraw that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: "Distortion"? Well, it is an interesting fabrication.

The Deputy Chairman: The honourable minister knows there are certain rules of the House.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, when the honourable member opposite embroiders the truth in such a way as to make it entirely opposite to that which was intended by the individual who interjected, it calls for some remark. If you do not like the word I used and if it is not parliamentary, then I shall withdraw it.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable minister. The member for Sudbury East is speaking his own mind, and he also will try to speak to the amendment.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, that makes my day; I feel much better now that she has withdrawn her remark. I hope she gets up before this is over and joins in, because she herself said she believes women should have this equality. As my colleague the member for Nickel Belt said, if she were to lead the fight over there as she did on Bill 127 we would see a rather different piece of legislation before us.

Let me remind members before the member for Nipissing—

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: I am not listening to him.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. Member for Sudbury East, with you taking this pause everybody is interjecting. You have the floor. Would you please continue.

Mr. Martel: I am just waiting for them to—

The Deputy Chairman: I am trying to simmer them down and let you simmer on.

Mr. Martel: I appreciate your help, Mr. Chairman. It is welcome.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. All members have every opportunity to participate.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Martel: I might just interject that there is another interesting place where equality has been achieved, and that is among members of the Legislature. We do not pay women members or cabinet ministers less than male members, do we?

I suspect cabinet ministers, whether male or female, get the same salary. I guess I am trying to make the point that where there is strength, there is equality. Before my friend interrupted, I was saying women who do not have that sort of voice, who do not have that sort of collective power, have a lot less income. It is totally unfair that the most powerful can achieve it and the weakest in our society cannot. It is time we intervened.

I want to remind members that in a meeting just last week or the week before in the city of Hamilton, the chamber of commerce asked that the second part of the legislation elevating the minimum wage, that portion which comes due in September or October, not be implemented. Is that not magnificent? That is less than \$4 an hour in this day and age which comes to \$160 a week. That is roughly about \$8,000 a year if one is fortunate enough to have a job. The chamber of commerce is saying, "Do not give them the other few cents because it exceeds the five per cent guideline."

It boggles the mind that those who have power, influence and strength would again go after the most vulnerable in our society, those with the lowest income, the working poor. In many instances, women fall into that category and the government's friends do not even want the second part of the minimum wage to be increased. With that increase we might just reach the level the other provinces reached several years ago. We lead in everything, do we not?

I guess what bothers me—

Mr. Bradley: Except advertising.

Mr. Martel: Except advertising. The member is right, we lead there. We even win achievement awards.

An hon. member: They are second to no one in advertising.

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: We have 22 for 30. The member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) has been crying for three years about 30 for 22. I am not doing badly. How about the member for Niagara Falls?

He has 32 now and in another couple of weeks he will have 31. I mean he is getting close.

The Deputy Chairman: Speaking to the bill. Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Martel: They are bailing out like rats abandoning the sinking ship.

Mr. Boudria: Are you jealous? Does the member know what will send them back.

The Deputy Chairman: We are dealing with Mr. Mackenzie's amendment.

Mr. Martel: I understand.

The Deputy Chairman: Please respond to Mr. Mackenzie's amendment.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Bill 141 is the subject before the House.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The member for Sudbury East is going to continue to speak on Bill 141 and the amendment.

Mr. Martel: I am speaking about the bill.

Mr. Havrot: After looking across the House, he cannot stand the members.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: I have not even started yet. These are just my introductory remarks. I am in no hurry. Is the member for Niagara Falls?

Mr. Kerrio: Yes, I want to speak.

Mr. Martel: I have to quit at six. The chiropractors are waiting for me, so I must continue.

Mr. Kerrio: They will not bend the member.

Mr. Martel: I do not know. I will be there.

I want to go back a couple of years, because it is an interesting amendment before us. I cannot help but recall when my friend Ted Bounsall moved this particular bill. It went out to committee—in fact it got second reading.

Ms. Copps: Who?

Mr. Martel: Dr. Ted Bounsall. It went to committee and we had clause-by-clause debate there. Everyone supported it, including the Tories. Then the government refused to call it for committee of the whole House and third reading.

I find that to be deception at its finest, because the public was led to believe the government supported this legislation.

Mr. Lane: The member could have forced it.

Mr. Martel: How can we force it? My friend should learn the rules around here. I want to tell my friend that he is again wrong, because the

only people who can call an order of business in this Legislature—maybe I am wrong, but just going by memory—is the government, not even a Tory back-bencher. The people who call the orders of business for the day are the members of the cabinet. I want to remind the member that none of the cabinet ministers was prepared to call that bill back.

Mr. Lane: That is not what the members of the third party were saying in those days when we had a minority government. They were saying they would not vote for it.

Mr. Martel: We said that?

Mr. Lane: You said that.

Mr. Martel: I cannot recall saying that. That was the government's reason for not introducing anything; it was afraid the bill was going to be lost or that it might have an amendment it could not carry, and therefore it pretended it could not do anything.

I would just remind my friend that what will be called in the zoo here and the order in which it will be called rests solely with the government. If the government chooses not to call it back then it does not get called. Unless the rules have been changed since this afternoon it used to be that way.

We had a motion some time ago from the member for Hamilton Centre, and lo and behold they all supported it. Again, I really find it disturbing, and I am sure the chairman does too—such an impartial chairman—that all those government members voted on a piece of legislation some time ago, it went to committee, came back to the House and the government would not call it. We then have a resolution all the government members support. Then the government introduces a piece of legislation and that important principle is left out. We in this party thought it was accidental and that is why we, in trying to help the government, moved the amendment, just to give it another chance, because on several votes the government has indicated its support.

I cannot understand how some of the members could have voted at least twice; and now, when they have a third opportunity with the legislation going through, they are going to vote against it. Where is the principle? Maybe I need a crane to extract the principle from where it is lodged. Where is the principle that members voted on? They should bloody well be ashamed of themselves. If they do not believe in it, let them not mislead the people. Let them not pretend they are for it and, at the same time, vote against it. That is what is going on.

The Minister of Education can say, "No, that is not true; we are for it." That being the case, she should rise in her place when the time comes and support the amendment, and so should those other members—

Ms. Copps: Such as the member for Nipissing.

Mr. Martel: Oh, no. I understand why he will not, because he thinks it will lead to fiscal mismanagement and economic ruin. Are there any other good words we could use? We could not have stability if we had equality for women. We could not have that fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Harris: The honourable member has trouble speaking for himself, let alone for other members.

Mr. Martel: I want to tell the members that some of them who have been here long enough have voted twice on this principle.

I guess what I find so difficult to understand is how members can vote for it to try to create the illusion they are for it, then not allow it to go through. What is it that says to them, "We will not introduce it"? Is it the chamber of commerce and their donations at election time? Is that part of it?

Mr. Bradley: Only in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

Mr. Martel: Yes, I read that very interesting letter this afternoon about Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. I am glad the member reminded me of that.

Mr. Villeneuve: You need to be debriefed.

Mr. Martel: Be brief?

Mr. Villeneuve: Come on, debrief us.

Mr. Martel: I must say that was the most amazing letter I have seen in my 17 years here. It says: "Without our close connections to the present Ontario government, this project and the extra employment it means would not be possible. I hope you will take this into consideration on Thursday and lend your support to Noble Villeneuve and the government that made this possible."

Whoop-de-do. I understand—

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Sudbury East might feel it is time—

Mr. Martel: Are they a subsidiary of Molson's or some brewery?

The Deputy Chairman: —for the chiropractor's dinner.

Mr. Martel: Labatts. They needed it, did they not?

The Deputy Chairman: Would the honourable member break off his remarks.

Mr. Martel: With your indulgence, I would move the adjournment of the—

The Deputy Chairman: It is not necessary.

Mr. Martel: Not necessary, but I want to save my place so I will move it anyway.

The Deputy Chairman: We will look for you on the next appropriate occasion.

The House recessed at 6:01 p.m.

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No. 63

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Tuesday, June 5, 1984
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 5, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of the whole.

PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 54, An Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act.

On section 1:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Philip moves that in subclause 1(1)(d)(ii) the word "four" be deleted and replaced by the word "three."

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, during committee hearings the government was not able to offer us a satisfactory explanation why four months was chosen rather than three months. We are still not convinced that a large number of people will not be eliminated by this choice. We recognize the government cannot bring it down very much further than three months because it will involve a lot of people who are very temporarily employed.

In line with the argument presented by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, however, we feel three months is preferable to four unless the government can give us more adequate reasons for the choice of four than an arbitrary decision to cut off at four months.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, I cannot accept this amendment. In the discussions relating to the amendments to the Public Service Superannuation Act, and looking at the reality of what we were trying to do, which was to fulfil a commitment made by the government in the speech from the throne to offer benefits to regular part-time people and regular seasonal people, we looked at what was fair, reasonable and equitable and where most people would fit into that category.

In the discussions that were subsequently carried on with the union, when the subject was passed on to it in the way of information—and I want to point out that the issue of pensions was really not a negotiable item, but there is a commitment by the government to carry on dialogue and discussions with the union, which was done—we felt four months was reasonable. It was practical, defensible and administratively feasible.

I think the member should think of that in the context of a year and of the people to whom we are offering benefits. They are people who work all winter, people who work all summer, people who work regularly two days a week, people who work regularly three or four hours a day. They all fit into that category of adding up to one third of the year or more of regular employment.

By the way, Mr. Chairman, I am sure you will be interested to know we estimate that something in the order of 8,000 people will be eligible to take advantage of this expanded benefit, giving them the opportunity to become part of the Public Service Superannuation Act.

Beyond that, one is talking about sums that would probably not become worth while. I know one can argue a dollar is better than nothing, but with respect to any reasonable amount, we think one third of the year is a reasonable cutoff to consider a person to be on any regular type of part-time employment or any regular seasonal employment. If they have less than that, they do not really fall into the category of the expansion of benefits we wish to offer.

Mr. Philip: The minister says that 8,000 people will be affected by the four rather than the three. Can he tell us how many would be affected by the three and whether his staff has been able to calculate that in the short time we have had since the committee hearings?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Not in specific numbers, but it is not a great deal of increase. We do not know for sure, but it might be another 1,000 or 1,500 people. This is a much more inconsistent figure and it is not as constant a figure. I suppose one could even argue that many of them would not qualify in the context of being regular part-time or regular seasonal people. The figure of 8,000 and the figure of four months in terms of the total calendar year—I have to emphasize that—is the only figure we are prepared to say is not only administratively practical but possible.

Mr. Philip: Could the minister explain why three is less administratively practical than four? I fail to see that, and the minister has not given us any information on that.

He also has not given us any information when he says a difference of 1,000 or 1,500. There is a 50 per cent difference between 1,000 and 1,500.

If we are going to pick numbers out of the air, why is it that the minister cannot document why he has chosen four rather than three? Fifty per cent one way or the other is a preposterous kind of inaccuracy.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I think I indicated that it was not a definitive or defensible figure. The reason is that it was somewhat picked out of the air, based on some feel for and knowledge of many of the ministries. In actual fact, we arrived at the initial figure by surveying on an individual ministry-by-ministry basis the people within their employ who would meet the criterion of the four months.

That is not a process that can be done overnight or even in a matter of a week, so that is the reason I do not have a definitive number vis-à-vis the numbers less than four months. We did not ask the question.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Philip's amendment that the word "four" be deleted and replaced by the word "three" in subclause 1(1)(d)(ii) will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2:

Mr. Philip: I have two amendments to section 2 and I wonder if we might deal with them together. Is that the pleasure of the chair since they are both related?

The Deputy Chairman: I have one amendment to subsection 2(1). Is that the one you are about to propose?

Mr. Philip: We will deal with them separately then. That is fine.

I move that in section 3 of the act as set out in section 2 of the bill the word "four" be deleted in subsection 3(1) of the act and replaced by the word "six."

8:10 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: Before the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) proceeds, we are now in the process of discussing Bill 54, section 2. The subsection before us within the amendment proposed is subsection 3(4). His amendment is suggested in another part of the act. May I suggest the member is out of order in proposing the amendment he has now placed before the House.

Mr. Philip: With respect, section 2 of the bill deals with the composition of the board. We are dealing with that section and how the board is

composed. The amendment and the point I am trying to make, as honourable members will see subsequently, is that this is not a policy-making body but an administrative body of the government. My proposal will change that administrative body and its composition. I therefore suggest it is in order, as you can see by section 2 of this bill which amends section 3 of the act.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable member for his explanation and his reasons. I can understand the rationale behind them. However, according to the rules of our House, the amendment he is making will be out of order. The chair considers it to be out of order because the amendment does not pertain to a section before the House. Section 2 is before the House. The member is suggesting an amendment that does not pertain to any section or part of a section within the domain of this bill. Therefore, I rule it out of order. Are there any further amendments?

Mr. Philip: I will try to convince you on my next amendment.

I move that subsection 3(1) of the act be repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"The members of the board shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, three of whom shall be the representatives of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, provided that one such representative is receiving benefits under the act, and one member of the other three appointees shall be a representative of the Civil Service Commission."

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable member. His patience and mine are both very strong. May I suggest that for the same reasons I gave on his previous motion, this motion is also out of order.

Mr. Philip: For exactly the same reasons, I suggest they are in order. I would hope you would reconsider. We are dealing with the composition of the board, a board that is purely an administrative board, a board that surely the government should not fear since it has no policy-making abilities.

I do not see why the minister would not open up this section of the act and embrace it wholeheartedly in a feeling of consultation with those who are most affected and say, "Yes, we will make these minor changes in the administration of the act." Other acts allow those who are most affected by the pensions to directly administer their pensions.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable member. We are both very patient. I still rule the amendment out of order. It is so declared

by the chair. Are there any further amendments to section 2?

Section 2 agreed to.

Sections 3 and 4 agreed to.

On section 5:

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I actually have two amendments to section 5, and one relates to the other. I obviously have to place them in order, but the explanation will cover both of them.

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mr. Ashe moves that subsection 8(1) of the act, as set out in section 5 of the bill, be amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph 3, by adding at the commencement of the paragraph, "Where the amount for principal is computed under subclause 2(a)(i) (continuous service, notice within one year) or under subsection 3 (current contributor, notice within one year)"; and

(b) in paragraph 4, by striking out, "principal and interest" in the first line and inserting in lieu thereof "principal or interest or both."

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, my remarks now will also apply to the next amendment because they both do exactly the same thing but in different subsections of section 5.

It was never the intention in re-enacting the buy-back section of the present act, which is section 8 of the legislation, to alter the rule that interest would not be charged where the principal sum to be paid in purchasing the past service is to be calculated on the basis of the person's current salary.

We have therefore limited the interest subsection, which is paragraph 8(1)3, to situations where the principal sum is calculated on some past salary, with the necessary result that interest will not be charged where the principal sum is based on current salary.

Related to the previous amendment regarding the nonpayment of interest where principal is calculated on current salary, is a proposed amendment to clause 8(2)(b) to provide that where credit is being obtained for past non-continuous service, the principal sum will be based on current salary whenever the election is made. Interest will not be added.

Now if I can put it in simpler language, during the discussions in committee some concern was expressed in the Ontario Public Service Employees Union presentation and by the member for Etobicoke that a change was being proposed in this regard, and that from the way the section read it could imply that somebody who was paying back service based on current pay would be charged interest. This is not the case.

We are carrying on in the amended bill the same practice as before. Both these amendments, this one and one I will put after it, are just to make that abundantly clear.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak to the amendment proposed by the minister to section 5 of the bill.

I am glad he has brought in amendments to clarify the present situation as it relates to credits and the buy-back of certain pension sections of the act. I think the minister should be commended in this area because he was listening at the committee hearings last Wednesday when OPSEU submitted some of its concerns on the proposed amendments to Bill 54. I am delighted to see that other amendments follow a similar line of thought and will include additional benefits to the pensioners.

As I said during the course of the discussions last Wednesday, I thought it was time the government moved to bring in a comprehensive pension reform that would relate not only to this particular bill but also to the Ontario municipal employees retirement system and other pension schemes in Ontario. We on this side are looking forward to the government moving in this direction to bring in that pension reform, which it has talked so much about in the last two or three years.

It has been a long struggle. We on this side look at government as a process of bargaining, and this is an area where something is gained in the process of sitting down and discussing the issues with the participants in the pension schemes. This one in particular, the Public Service Superannuation Amendment Act, is a step in the right direction.

I hope the ministers responsible for the Ontario municipal employees retirement system and the other areas where pension reforms have been talked about will be coming forward before the next election. If not, it will be a good election issue, I am sure, since the government has talked about pension reform for so long.

We accept the movement in this area and we accept the amendment.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased the minister did pay some attention to the presentations before the committee. I wonder if the minister, perhaps through his technical staff, can advise us what would be the difference to the recipients in actual dollars between this amendment and the amendment I had proposed, which he has before him, no doubt.

The Deputy Chairman: Any thoughts on that?

8:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Frankly, not particularly, Mr. Chairman. I had already compared them and decided we were both working on the same amendment and, I will be honest, I really did not try to analyse to any great degree the differences between the two.

Last week I made a commitment in committee that I would clarify the sections to make it abundantly clear that interest would not be charged on the back service based on current salary. Once that was accomplished, I did not look at the corresponding amendment from the member for Etobicoke.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Ashe moves that clause 8(2)(b) of the act, as set out in section 5 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“(b) where the credit to be obtained is in respect of service that is not continuous with service while a contributor, on the basis of the contributor’s salary on the date the notice is given.”

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, I gave the explanation for both sections when I discussed the previous section. They both do the same thing. It is just two different sections of the act.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, one of the problems the Ontario Public Service Employees Union pointed out is that the cost of buying back can be quite prohibitive. That is dealt with in my amendment, which I would like voted on later.

Examples given by OPSEU showed that to buy \$3,000 a year could cost as much as \$40,000, which is something an average working person would not have. It makes no sense to buy past service at current salary with retroactive compound interest, and that is what my amendment attempted to correct.

I am pleased the minister has tried to understand and respond to items 44, 45 and 46 of the OPSEU brief, and we will support the amendment.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Philip moves that clauses 8(2)(a) and 8(2)(b) of the act, as set out in section 5 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“(a) where the credit to be obtained is in respect of service continuous with service while a contributor and, the notice of intention to obtain the credit is given to the board by the contributor, on the basis of the contributor’s salary during the period for which the credit is to be obtained, or,

“(b) where the credit to be obtained is in respect of service that is not continuous with service while a contributor and, the notice of intention to obtain the credit is given to the board by the contributor, or the basis of the contributor’s salary on the most recent occasion on which he became a contributor.”

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I am sure you understand this fully. It is for the same reasons I gave in support of the minister’s amendment, but I think mine is a better way of doing it.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, that is a matter of opinion and I do not support it.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Philip’s amendment will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether it might be appropriate, after section 6 of the bill, to move a further amendment; it is at the bottom of the package of amendments. Since we are moving from section 9 of the act to section 21 of the act, I would move that section 16 of the act be deleted.

The Deputy Chairman: That is not before us. The member is in a different section of the act. We are on a different section as far as Bill 54 is concerned. I declare that motion out of order.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, if we carry section 6, I am sure you will be prepared then to look at this amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: We will deal with what we deal with. We are on section 5. I am honoured the member would challenge me in such a way, and I rule him out of order.

Section 5, as amended, agreed to.

On section 6:

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, in the deliberations of the standing committee on general government last week quite a substantive presentation was made by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. They had many significant points in their brief. Similar points were made by members opposite, particularly by the member for Etobicoke, related to that presentation.

On reflection, we have decided to incorporate some of the expanded benefits alluded to in the OPSEU presentation. I will be offering an amendment to section 6 plus two others, 6a and 6b.

The Deputy Chairman: Move it and then we will put it on record.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Fine. There are several parts; so I thought it needed a little background.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Ashe moves that section 6 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(2) Section 9 of the said act as amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(5) For the purpose of subsection 1, leave of absence because of pregnancy or adoption of a child includes all leave or leaves of absence in respect of the birth or adoption of the child.”

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, this was one of the issues that was raised very effectively at the committee last week. I will give the comparison between the present act and the act as I am proposing the amendment.

At present, if an employee on maternity leave chooses to take advantage of section 9 of the act, she pays her own contributions during the 17-week period of partially paid leave and the crown makes matching contributions during this period. In other words, the contribution sharing is the same as if she was at work. If the employee takes unpaid leave for a further period of up to 26 weeks and wishes to continue to establish credit in the future, she must pay both her own and the matching contributions that in the past were paid by the government.

The proposed amendment will extend the benefit. It will result in the crown making matching contributions during the extended period of unpaid leave. In other words, the benefit that is now enjoyed during the first 17 weeks would be further enjoyed for up to an additional 26 weeks.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, we on this side will accept the amendment as proposed by the minister. We thank him for including the extended benefits for pregnancy in the adoption period and the option for the six-month contribution by the government. I gather it will be a cost-sharing program between the government and the employee on a 50-50 basis. I suppose it has been extended to a further leave of absence agreed upon by both parties. Am I correct in that?

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, to facilitate debate, I will say *ibid et op cit*.

Motion agreed to.

8:30 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Ashe moves that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following section:

“6a(1) Section 14 of the said act is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(8a) Subject to subsection 9, a person who is credited for the purposes of this act with service that when added to the person's credit for service in the fund establishes a date of commencement of service that is on or before December 31, 1965, shall, if he becomes entitled to an allowance or an annuity, receive an annual allowance or an annuity equal to that which he would have received if it had been computed under the Public Service Superannuation Act as it was on December 31, 1965.

“(2) Subsection 14(9) of the said act is amended by inserting after ‘subsection 8’ where it appears in the first line and in the 11th line ‘or 8a.’

“(3) Subsection 14(8a) of the said act, as enacted by subsection 1, applies only in respect of a person who is or who becomes a contributor on or after the date subsection 1 comes into force.”

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, this issue was raised in the committee debate last week in general terms, and in looking at fairness and equity in the act, we saw there were some people who had previous contributions or service for which they could be required to make back contributions and yet would not buy exactly the same pension benefit as if they had been carried as continuous service employees.

Subsection 14(8) of the act currently provides that a person who has been a contributor since December 31, 1965, or earlier is guaranteed an allowance or annuity equal to that which he would have received under the act as it was on December 31, 1965. The proposed amendment, subsection 14(8a), will extend the benefit of that guarantee to those who purchased past service credits and thereby establish the pension credit date of December 31, 1965, or earlier.

I wish to point out a couple of examples of people who will benefit by the change in this option. People who have had military service and people who have transferred into the Public Service Superannuation Act from other public service contributory plans, such as the teachers' superannuation fund, will be able to carry on the same nature of benefit, even if their buy-back or previous service contributions via another vehicle predated December 31, 1965.

The Deputy Chairman: It is agreed that the minister will require unanimous consent from the House before this can come before the House, because it is not technically part of the bill. Being consistent with other honourable members who have brought motions before this House that were not in Bill 54, do we have unanimous

consent from all members before this is brought forward?

Agreed to.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I assume it will be reciprocated the next time my colleague moves an amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: I will be totally fair. When I realized this was the case, I was prepared to block it. If it is unanimous, then it is accepted.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to see the minister move in this direction. Perhaps it was not included in the original amendment to the bill, but this opens the door to pension reform. I commend the minister for moving in this direction.

One of the concerns at the committee meeting last week was that Bill 54 also increases the cost of purchasing past service. It says it entails a reduction in the benefits. I do not know whether that has been answered in this amendment. It talks about purchasing a past service before 1965. Concerning portability, one can move from one government pension scheme to another under this program; that is a step in the right direction.

The minister has also included military service as back service. That is something that has been long awaited. I am surprised the government did not move 20 or 30 years ago in the direction of including the service of men who served in the Second World War. It is quite a coincidence that tomorrow we are marking the 40th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Europe which liberated France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The minister must have been listening to what was going on.

In a number of cases the veterans who served overseas in the last world war have been shortchanged in pension schemes. I know that in the Ontario municipal employees retirement system, which relates to the municipalities' pension schemes, the government has allowed the same suggestion that is in this amendment so they can include their war services. I commend the minister for moving in that direction.

The minister indicated before the recess that there are 2,000 persons who would receive the benefit of this amendment. I do not know what the actual cost is, but I would be interested to find out just what it is going to cost the fund for those persons who would be the recipients under this section.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, would the minister care to give us any estimate about how many people will potentially benefit from this? How

many people could opt into this as a result of this amendment?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, from the first run at the computer, our estimate is that approximately 1,600 or 1,700 people will benefit by this amendment. The costs are not absolute by any stretch of the imagination—they never are until one sees who takes advantage—but it is estimated that it could be somewhere in the area of \$4 million per annum if the majority participated.

I want to make it a little clearer, because I do not want to mislead the House, that there are several ways the benefit comes in. In some cases, people were able to get theoretical credit for back service, but it did not buy them the same benefits as if they had been here. It is not just a matter of saying, "You never gave them the opportunity before." In some cases, they paid the price but did not get the same benefit. This is one of the inequities rectified by this amendment.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: The minister proposes to move an amendment to a section that is not before the House. Do I have the unanimous consent of the House to accept this amendment before I read it?

Agreed to.

Mr. McClellan: On the basis of reciprocity, yes.

The Deputy Chairman: I have no way of saying that will happen.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, in this age of six and five, I wonder whether the minister would accept an extra five and then we could give him unanimous consent to that.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Ashe moves that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following section:

"6b. The said act is amended by adding thereto the following section:

"20a(1) A person who is a contributor or who is entitled to a deferred annuity under this act may direct the board to increase the amount of the survivor allowance related to the allowance or annuity to which the person will be entitled or related to the deferred annuity to 55 per cent, 60 per cent, 65 per cent, 70 per cent or 75 per cent of the allowance or annuity or deferred annuity and to reduce the amount of the allowance or annuity or deferred annuity accordingly."

"(2) A direction mentioned in subsection 1 must be in writing and must be delivered to the board two years or more before the person

commences to receive an allowance or an annuity or deferred annuity under this act."

(3) The board shall accept a direction mentioned in subsection 1 that is delivered to the board less than two years before the person commences to receive an allowance or an annuity or deferred annuity under this act, if the board is satisfied that the person is in good health having regard to the person's age.

"(4) Where a direction mentioned in subsection 1 is delivered in accordance with subsection 2 or accepted in accordance with subsection 3, the amount of the allowance or annuity or deferred annuity payable to the person shall be actuarially reduced in a manner approved by the board to allow for the survivor allowance in accordance with the direction, and the amount of the survivor allowance related to the allowance or annuity or deferred annuity shall be increased in accordance with the direction."

8:40 p.m.

"(5) A direction mentioned in subsection 1 is not valid if the person who gives the direction dies before applying for an allowance or annuity or deferred annuity under this act."

"(6) A person who gives a direction mentioned in subsection (1) may revoke the direction by a written revocation delivered to the board before the date of commencement of the person's allowance or annuity or deferred annuity."

Hon. Mr. Ashe: This was an issue that was discussed in the committee meeting last week. The Public Service Superannuation Act, like most benefit plans, provides for a 50 per cent survivor benefit when a pension recipient dies. The proposed amendment, section 20a, will allow a contributor to elect to take a reduced benefit during his lifetime and in turn his survivor will take an increased survivor allowance. The reductions and increases will be actuarially determined. This amendment is similar to a provision in the recently revised Teachers' Superannuation Act.

This goes very close to the proposal put forth last week to the committee by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, although it suggested the figure should be up to 80 per cent. We are giving flexibility at five per cent increments going from 50 to 55, 60 to 65, 70 to 75. In other words, it will go up to 75 per cent, not 80 per cent. It is very much in line with recent amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

If I may just clarify the record, apparently in the answer to the last section relating to cost, I inadvertently said the cost was something in the

order of \$4 million annually. It is \$4 million, period.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, we will concur with the minister's proposed amendment, section 6b of Bill 54. I recall I sat on the select committee on pensions in 1982 for a period of a week or so. To upgrade survivors' benefits was one of its recommendations. I am pleased the minister has included this proposed amendment in the new bill. He indicates it draws a parallel with the Teachers' Superannuation Act. It is a similar piece of legislation and it does give the survivor additional benefits on the option of the way they want to take their pension. I concur with the amendment.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, the union, as the minister suggests, asked for 80 per cent. The minister has moved in that direction, although not all the way. We will support the amendment.

Motion agreed to.

Section 6, as amended, agreed to.

On section 7:

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mr. Ashe moved that subsection 21(3) of the said act, as set out in section 7 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(3) The contribution mentioned in subsection (2) shall be six per cent of the salary authorized to be paid from time to time to a person in the same or a comparable position to that in which the contributor was employed in the month in which the contributor qualified for the benefit."

Hon. Mr. Ashe: One of the excellent points of discussion that was brought forth last week in the brief, and further discussed by the members opposite, such as the member for Etobicoke, was the fact that if a person is off on long-term disability, the pension benefits accruing to his or her benefit during that time are based on contributions relating to the salary of the person when the disability commenced. This means, as an example, that if somebody was disabled for the last 10 years before retirement, his pension accruals, and ultimately his pension benefits, would be based on his salary 10 years before he would have retired, resulting in a much-reduced pension.

This amendment deals with this problem. The act provides for the employer to make contributions on behalf of an employee who has qualified for benefits under an approved long-term income protection plan. The proposed amendment to subsection 21(3) provides an escalation feature so the contributions that come from the government and the allowance the individual ultimately

receives will be based on the salary the individual would have received had he continued to occupy the position he held when he became disabled.

I am sure the members will appreciate that "he" also means "she" in this. It is just in conformity with the legislation as now written.

In effect this means that, for somebody going on disability, pension accruals would be based on the salary benefits that would have accrued to that position if the person had been at work. I think this is a very valid acceptance of a point that has been brought forth in the past, including last week's committee meeting.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on section 7, the proposed amendment to subsection 21(3). Again I am looking at the submission and recommendations of OPSEU dealing with this particular section. It says: "The contributions mentioned in subsection 2 shall be six per cent of the salary authorized to be paid to the contributor in the month in which the contributor qualified for the benefit, plus whatever salary increases would otherwise have been applicable."

The proposed amendment is similar to what OPSEU had recommended, and again I have to concur with the proposed amendment. We on this side will support it.

I suppose I should draw to the attention of the Legislature that this does show one of the functions of referring particular pieces of legislation to a committee of the Legislature. The public and interested parties have some input into the final decision. In this particular instance the minister and his staff have been listening, and these amendments are a step in the right direction.

I have to commend the minister. I did not think he had the heart to bring forward these last two or three proposed changes to the act itself. He must have done some arm-twisting over there with his colleagues in the cabinet to go on with these major changes in this piece of pension legislation.

I just hope that if the official opposition has success in getting many more important pieces of legislation referred to committee, the government will keep its ears open and listen to the opposition and interested parties so changes will be forthcoming.

We support the proposed amendment.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I concur with what the member for Erie has said. It was our party that asked that the bill go out for public hearings and stated that we would force it if necessary. It was not necessary, because the

minister and the government were willing to have it go to public hearings.

It was too bad we had so little time in which to deal with what is a very complicated piece of legislation. None the less some movement has been made, and obviously the minister has listened to some of the recommendations made at the hearings.

This was a concern. Someone off on long-term disability had his pension based on his salary at the time of his disability. That was blatantly unfair, and he suffered for it for the rest of his life. The minister has attempted to listen to the injustice that was pointed out to him by OPSEU and its members.

Motion agreed to.

Section 7, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 8 to 10, inclusive, agreed to.

8:50 p.m.

On section 11:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Philip moves that clauses 28(a) and 28(b) of the act be amended by deleting clauses 28(a) and 28(b) up to the word "foundation" and the following is substituted therefor:

"(a) to the permanent and probationary staff of any board, commission, foundation or organization established under any act of the Legislature that is designated or funded by the Lieutenant Governor in Council; and

"(b) to any full-time member of any such board, commission, foundation and organization."

The rest would follow according in the act, namely (i) and (ii).

Because clause 28(b) was not in the bill, could I have unanimous consent from all members of the House that this be considered as an amendment?

Agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, as the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) has pointed out on numerous occasions in this House, our party has been very concerned about the contracting out of certain government functions. We wish simply to assure that those people who are working through the contracting-out systems have the same kinds of benefits as those who are public employees. That is the intent of this motion, and I hope the minister will consider it.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, section 11 of the bill already exists. Quite frankly, I am not quite sure that motion reads correctly, because section 11 already amends clause 28(a) of the act. The way the motion was put, I do not think it

superseded or changed what is already known as section 11 of the bill. In other words, there is a section in the bill that already changes clause 28(a), but the motion as put by the member for Etobicoke does not recognize that. It just goes on to identify that it is not there. In any event, I will leave you to think that one out and sort it out in due course.

We cannot accept this particular amendment because we feel section 11 was intended only to remove the word "full-time" from clause 28(a) in the act and to recognize the original intent of Bill 54, which was to give regular part-time and regular seasonal employees the opportunity to join under the Ontario Public Service Superannuation Act. We looked very carefully at those who do and who should qualify, and I think the present words fully take care of that.

As far as the reference to contracting out per se, there is no doubt at all those people would do not qualify under the definition in any event and, in fact, should not.

I think it is safe to say in virtually all situations where "contracting out"—and I am using the term as used by the member for Etobicoke—takes place, it is either for a specific project, for a specific relatively temporary period or for something which has a termination date to it. That is really not within the spirit of the act as it is being expanded at this time. It is really only intended to acknowledge and allow that there are certain people within the Ontario public service now, in the future and in the past who do work, have worked and will probably continue to work on a regular part-time basis or on a regular seasonal basis.

In my view, those people who contract out do not fall into this category.

Mr. Haggerty: I want to speak to the amendment put forward by the member for Etobicoke. I can see it may cause some problems for the minister responsible for the act, in particular as it relates to contract work. However, if one looks at it, I think it has merit in the area of pension reform in Ontario. Regardless of whether it is in the act or not, I suggest that any ministry contracting work out should look to see that the persons employed by the contractor have a clause for pension allowance in their arrangements with their employer.

It has merit in the sense that when ministries contract work out they should ensure those persons would have some pension scheme. It may take three or four years to bring in such a pension reform program. However, I think these persons might be in an area where they could be

hired for one, six or seven weeks, or even seven months, and pensions should be included in that contract.

The Deputy Chairman: Does any other honourable member wish to participate in this debate?

All those in favour of Mr. Philip's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Sections 11 to 15, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 16:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Philip moves that section 16 of the bill be deleted.

Mr. Philip: The purpose of this is simply to help the government keep the promise it made to the Ombudsman and to the Ombudsman's committee. The minister will recall that the second report of the Ombudsman pointed out the basic unfairness of section 16 of the Public Service Superannuation Act.

Item 1560 on page 266, dealing with the Ministry of Government Services, said: "Section 16 of Public Service Superannuation Act too restrictive with regard to re-employed provincial superannuates." Then it gave a detailed explanation. The Ministry of Government Services in turn came back and said they recognized that basic injustice.

It was dealt with again in the third report of the select committee on the Ombudsman which recommended that, "The ministry should table appropriate legislation in the Legislature during this current session, removing the present restriction on the total current earnings of the provincial superannuate."

The 11th report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, says: "Recommendation number 24...provided that the ministry should table appropriate legislation removing the present restriction on the total current earnings of a provincial superannuant. Management Board of Cabinet has approved in principle an amendment to the Public Service Superannuation Act which will remove the present provision requiring a reduction or suspension of pension benefits where a pensioner is re-employed by the crown. Representatives of the ministry assure the committee that the amendment is a priority."

9 p.m.

It was a priority at the time of the 11th report of the select committee of the Ombudsman, but suddenly a new act comes in and it is not a

priority now. It is a little bit like the two trees for one. It is a priority one day and it is not a priority the next.

I felt kind of sorry for this minister because I think he has shown today that he has some flexibility in listening to presentations which are made before him. However, he said, and I hope I am not misquoting him: "I have no authority. It is that Chairman of Management Board." I did not use an adjective because I did not want to have the minister correct me over what he said. "It is that Chairman of Management Board who does not want to go along with this, and I have no authority over that poor, ugly fellow."

It is the act that is before us, and there is a basic injustice that has been dealt with by two select committees on the Ombudsman and by the Ombudsman himself in his second report. I suggest that now is the time to correct that basic injustice.

If one is at the upper echelon and a top professional, as are many of the very talented people advising the minister, they will come back on contract and get around that. The poor guy who is a clerk, a typist or a security guard gets stuck by this. It is the guy on the bottom or the middle-income earner who is affected by this.

Now that we have this act before us and the House has unanimously agreed to open up section 16, it should be deleted as requested by the Ombudsman and the all-party select committee on the Ombudsman.

The Deputy Chairman: Just for clarification, before the honourable minister responds, in my accepting that amendment I went against Beauchesne's good advice.

May I suggest that instead of having the amendment as the member presented it, the members of the third party vote against that section. That will accomplish the same objective the member has asked for.

Beauchesne says: "An amendment to delete a clause is not in order, as the proper course is to vote against the clause standing part of the bill."

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The motion as proposed by the member for Etobicoke is not relating to section 16 of the bill before him. There is nothing before him, so he cannot vote against it.

In the spirit of what was happening before, allowing a section that did not previously appear in the bill, section 16 as referred to is in the original Public Service Superannuation Act. It is section 16 of that bill, not section 16 of Bill 54 that is in front of us. They are two completely different things.

Section 16 of the bill before us talks about "on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor." That is when the act, except sections 10 and 12, will come into force. That is not the purpose of the motion before us.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I can assure you the minister is right on this occasion.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Again.

He is always a very charitable individual. I am glad to hear a lot of the accolades that have been put forth tonight. My generosity has gone as far as it can go. Sometimes the heart starts to close up from its bleeding. It bled to death before it got to this one, so I cannot go along with the amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: When the member for Etobicoke proposed his motion, I considered that since the next section for us to consider was section 16 of the bill before us, he was moving that that not be approved. Instead, he was really moving section 16 of the act. It would require unanimous consent of the House for that to happen.

Mr. Martel: You got it.

The Deputy Chairman: Did we?

Mr. Philip: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: We did? We have it. That is fine. I was thinking of something different from what I asked for.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, in the spirit in which it was given before, I agreed for the same reason. I have no qualms in debating the issue as it was discussed and debated last Wednesday in committee, although I am still not going to support it. My blood ran dry after the last donation. There is nothing left to give at this time. That is the point.

The situation as it was perceived by the government, the ministry, the select committee and the Ombudsman back in the late 1970s was applicable then, but it is not now. Things have changed. Times have changed. We have new legislation in effect that governs Canada to a greater degree. I am talking about the new benefits that have come into effect, the new protections under federal legislation. Such things as mandatory retirement age are issues we will have to address before next year. They obviously overlap this section of the Public Service Superannuation Act. It would not be appropriate to make any changes at this time. They will be made in due course, based on the legislation of a federal nature with which we have to comply.

If we look at the unemployment situation in Canada and Ontario, which looks better in

Ontario but is still too high, I do not think we would ever want to change legislation that might make it attractive for somebody to retire a little early so that he could start back to work the next day and compound his earnings. I do not think that is the spirit.

There is a fair and equitable basis somewhere in between. I am not suggesting it is what we have now, but I do not think this is the answer either. I cannot support the amendment.

Mr. Philip: In the light of the minister's comments and in the light of the understanding of the new Ombudsman and his feeling he must examine policy thrusts and policy areas, as a member of the select committee on the Ombudsman, I will have no alternative but to ask the new Ombudsman also to examine section 16 and report back to the committee. I am sorry the minister cannot accept our amendment.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 16 agreed to.

Section 17 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Eaton, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments and progress on another.

ONTARIO LOAN ACT

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved second reading of Bill 74, An Act to authorize the Raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, consistent with past practice, the 1984 Ontario Loan Act provides the borrowing authority needed to finance the net cash requirements of the province for the current fiscal year. Any unused borrowing authority will expire September 30, 1985.

As my 1984 budget statement indicated, Ontario's net cash requirements can be financed by borrowing from the Canada pension plan and the teachers' superannuation fund. Ontario's only capital market activity this year will be to refinance existing Treasury bill borrowing.

Interjections.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I cannot hear.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Sudbury.

Mr. Martel: You cannot blame that on me.

The Deputy Speaker: We are unable to hear the opening remarks of the Treasurer.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, do not accuse me. Heaven forbid.

Interjections.

9:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The 1984 Ontario Loan Act requests borrowing authority of \$2.6 billion. The 1984 budget forecasts net cash requirements of \$2.039 billion. Added to this are debt requirements during the year that total \$107 million.

The 1984 Ontario Loan Act also carries forward six months into the succeeding fiscal year following the procedure recommended by the public accounts committee in 1978 to cover requirements pending the passage of the 1985 Ontario Loan Act. Accordingly, it provides borrowing authority for Canada pension plan funds that will be made available each month during the period April 1 to September 30, 1985, which must be drawn down or forfeited. As well, it covers borrowings available from the teachers' superannuation fund during the same period.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a number of questions to ask about this. As the almost perennial chairman, unfortunately, of the public accounts committee, I am pleased to see the government has accepted one of our recommendations to cut down its authorization time. The present Treasurer probably will not recall, but at one point we passed a bill that gave open-ended authority to the government to borrow up to the limit without a time limit. If the government did not borrow the money within the fiscal year or even in the 18 months, it could carry it on two, three, four years or whatever was required.

However, I have a number of questions I want to ask the minister. The first is a matter that has been debated in this House at some length. When are we going to have to start repaying the Canada pension plan and the teachers' superannuation fund? To my knowledge, we have borrowed up to the limit in the past number of years. At some point, the borrowings from those funds are going to have to be paid back. I know the Treasurer and the government are counting on the fact that contributions, particularly to the CPP, perhaps even to the teachers' superannuation fund, will increase so the government will be able to keep borrowing from these funds ad nauseam, presumably, and not have to pay them back.

At some point, however, if we had good fiscal management in this situation, one would think the funds or some portion of them should be paid

back. What some of us fear on this side—our leader the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) has mentioned it in a number of instances—is that the interest payable to these funds from the funds so borrowed is going to equal the amount coming in from the CPP and the teachers' superannuation fund. So the money that is available will only meet the interest payments required to keep that fund static. The province at some point is going to have to go to the public market.

That is one question. I would like to know the Treasurer's projections as to when we are going to reach the borrowing limit from these funds, when the interest that is repayable on these loans will equal the amount coming in through the CPP and the teachers' superannuation fund.

The second question is with regard to the refinancing of the Treasury bills put out last year for the first time in many years. Interest rates have gone up. We have to refinance that particular issue, and the budget is a little vague to say the least. No bad news is underlined in any Treasurer's budget, but I am sure the Treasurer will want to give us a guesstimate at least of what the interest rate will be to refinance the Treasury bills put out in the last year.

If we look at page 51 of the budget, Ontario Finances, Ten-Year Review of Selected Financial and Economic Statistics, it is interesting to note that the funded debt per capita of the province is something like \$2,755 this year, excluding Ontario Hydro borrowings.

The Treasurer's own statistics show the funded debt as a percentage of gross provincial product, and the statistics are provided for 10 years. Back in 1975-76 the funded debt was 15.2 per cent of GPP; in 1984-85 the estimate is 15.4 per cent, which is the same figure as the interim for 1983-84, 15.4 per cent of GPP.

That is an interesting statistic when one compares it to the Treasurer's statements about how we are reducing the deficit. It is interesting that all the financial people in the gallery who are so fully knowledgeable about these kinds of affairs picked up on the Treasurer's comment that we are reducing the deficit this year. If one read or watched or heard the news reports following the Treasurer's budget, if the uninitiated or the man in the street heard those news reports, it sounded as if we were reducing the deficit from last year and the years past and as if we were not mortgaging the future of the people of the province by a deficit of \$2,039,000,000 this year. In fact, this is new debt, which is going to be a burden on the people of Ontario.

There is another interesting statistic that is related to this. In the budget document we talk about the fact that we have reduced the number of civil servants per capita from, I believe, 11 to nine per thousand people in the province. But we are finding out through questions put by the Liberal opposition, questions we have been trying to get answered for years, during the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services and those of the Ministry of Revenue, which have been done in the House, that this government has not reduced the cost of those items; it has contracted the work to consultants or seasonal or temporary people.

If I recall the figures, for instance, for the Ministry of Revenue, we found there was \$10 million in the budget for consultants and seasonal people. I believe it was an even worse figure for the Ministry of Government Services.

What the government has done with its usual smoke-and-mirrors trick—mostly by attrition, obviously, in the public service—is to take people who have retired, taken early retirement or whatever. The figures on the payroll of the province, which the taxpayers are paying, indicate that the number of civil servants per thousand people or the total has been reduced, but what we see during the estimates is that those people have been picked up in consulting contracts or contract work or seasonal work.

There does not seem to be a net reduction in the number of civil servants per thousand people, the figure the Treasurer and his predecessors used. If we add those all up, I suspect we would find that the number on the public payroll is, if not the same as it has been for the last number of years, possibly even higher.

Presumably, when we go through all the estimates, we will have a consolidated figure we will be able to look at and use to show again that while the figures in the budget document may be true in the sense in which they are written there, when we add the dollar cost of these things and the number of people who are still on the public payroll, the costs are higher than the Treasurer indicated. I am not one to say it is a good thing or a bad thing that we should be laying off people. I am not advocating that. I am simply saying his figures in the budget statement are somewhat suspect.

9:20 p.m.

It is interesting as well that we do not know the net borrowings. Again, to the uninitiated, if we look at it, we are talking about the consolidated revenue fund and one aspect of government borrowing in the province. We are not looking at,

and we very seldom do, the net borrowing for Ontario Hydro.

You will know, Mr. Speaker, being a student of these things, that as usual in the budget statement when you look under the net borrowing for Ontario Hydro for 1984-85, the entry there says "N/A," which means simply "not available." This is a common practice of Hydro and the Ontario government. The province pretends that is not part of the net debt of the province.

I think Hydro's debt is somewhere around \$16 billion and presumably will be another \$4 billion or \$5 billion. People have suggested by the 1990s that the borrowing debt of Ontario Hydro may well be double.

The point of this exercise is simply that on the books of the province, these funds, plus another \$220 million for loans to various agencies, boards and commissions, are carried as a contingency reserve on the province. Hydro borrowings are guaranteed by the province and have to be considered as part of the debt for Ontario.

We had an interesting discussion, and I am glad to see some of the people from Treasury under the press gallery tonight, in the standing committee on public accounts just a week ago about what constituted the real debt of Ontario. It is interesting to me that if we went to the Treasury people and got them off by themselves one at a time, we would probably get a very different figure from each one of them as to what exactly the debt of the province is.

I see the Deputy Treasurer thinks that is a humorous comment. I can understand that, because he knows as well as I do that very few people care about what the debt of the province is, except for the bond raters, who keep being wined and dined by various Treasurers, present, past and no doubt to come, who presumably find Ontario's debt is manageable. It is interesting and I just throw that out.

I wonder whether the Treasurer would like to take a shot, to use a phrase my friend the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) might use, at defining exactly what he perceives the net debt of the province to be. I am sure that if he wants to take a chance on that, without any reference to his experts under the gallery, even they may be surprised to learn what he considers the net debt, the net funded debt, or whatever phrase he likes, of Ontario to be. I would like him to define it for me.

I can almost hear his response now, which will be like that of his predecessors: "It does not really matter how you define the debt. It really matters

what the bond raters in New York say about the ability of Ontario to pay its debt." We heard this from the Treasury experts, but just as an academic exercise, for once I would like to hear from a Treasurer what he considers to be the outstanding obligations of the province in this case.

We went through an interesting transformation—that is not exactly the word I want to use, but I am not sure I can get transmogrification out—a couple of years ago with the present Treasurer's predecessor in which we learned we did not have any debt in Ontario. I hope I am not feeding the Treasurer any lines. We did not have a net debt or any debt in Ontario because our capital expenditures were equal to the money we had to raise through the teachers' superannuation fund, Canada pension plan or anything else. That capital debt went for hospitals, highways, schools and all those wonderful things.

It was as if by a wave of the wand the taxpayers in Ontario were not carrying any debt plus the interest associated with it. It was as if it did not exist because we had this building over here, that highway over there, this hospital here, and there was no debt because the money was going into those capital expenditures.

It is a strange—passing strange, as one of my former colleagues used to say—approach to finance when one says that one does not have any debt because they are all capital expenditures which, because of government accounting, we do not depreciate and all that kind of good stuff. But the basic essential is still there: that money has to be borrowed from somewhere to pay those costs. One can play with the books, transfer the operating costs into one column and the expenditures into another, but after all the smoke and mirrors and after the shell game is over, the fact remains that we are putting the taxpayers of Ontario on the line, and their ability to earn, for an additional \$2,039,000,000 this year.

Whether one calls that capital expenditure or operating costs, those things have to be financed at an interest rate that in the past two years has been somewhere relative to the prime rate that exists in the country and the province at the time. The fact remains that those debts are incurred and have to be paid as well as the interest on them.

I think it was under Darcy McKeough that we did all those studies and, if I recall correctly, there was a situation where I think it was the Smith committee that said if you were paying more than seven cents on the dollar—seven per cent—you had very serious problems, and the economy and the taxpayers could not afford that.

Then we got up to 11 cents on the dollar, and that was swept under the board, just as we now find 9.5 per cent unemployment in the province acceptable when we did not find 6.5 per cent acceptable a few years ago.

I am not arguing that things and times do not change, but it still does not speak of serious financial integrity in Ontario when one considers the wastage with respect to Suncor, the land banks, advertising, polls and all the rest of it that we have heard about—some people would say ad nauseam—in this province.

The other thing that is interesting is the way somebody can cook the books. We had the situation with the previous Treasurer's budget of 1983 when he said: "Our expenditures are going to be somewhere around \$25 billion, and our deficit will be \$2.9 billion; but having said that these are going to be our expenditures for the year, we have told the government ministries to cut back by \$300 million, so in fact our deficit is going to be a lot less than we say it is."

They could well have said, "When we originally calculated this, the deficit was going to be \$4 billion, but we have told our cabinet ministers that we are going to cut back by \$1.5 billion, so the deficit will be about \$2.5 billion." It is a shallow, cynical game for the Conservative government to be playing.

9:30 p.m.

I can tell the members a parallel story. When I got elected at the ripe old age of 24, I had just completed my course work for a master's degree in economics.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Honest to God? Really?

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is right. I had a chance to go into law but it was too easy, as the minister has proved. Anyway, I finished two years of course work in economics. I ran in 1967, when the present Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) was still wet behind the ears. In that election I put in my campaign brochure, "Master of arts (economics) pending." In 1971 I put "MA (economics) pending."

My constituents being the highly intelligent people they are, having elected me and re-elected me five times, finally said: "Why don't you put PhD pending? It means the same thing." That is a parallel with what the government is doing with its kind of chicanery.

Mr. Wildman: Is the member saying he was involved with chicanery in his campaign?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He got elected, did he not?

Mr. T. P. Reid: I have a comment, but I do not think I had better make it.

On page 2 of his budget statement, the Treasurer, who was not necessarily responsible for this, takes some pride, I would presume, in saying: "Deficits must come down. For the year just ended, I am pleased to report that we have been able to reduce the projected deficit of \$2,695,000,000 to \$2.35 billion."

What the Treasurer did not say and was not counting on was that the reduction was courtesy of our federal government, which came up with almost \$339 million in extra revenue. Of course, there were a few other things that went right. There was no obeisance, no nod and tug of the forelock to our federal cousin for its largess in bailing the province out of a \$2,695,000,000 deficit.

This year we are faced with a bill asking us to give the Treasurer and cabinet the authority to raise \$2.6 billion through Bill 74, the Ontario Loan Act. This will take the government to September 1985. The projected deficit is \$2,039,000,000. Tonight, the Treasurer is asking for an additional \$500 million or more as a bit of cushion to perhaps get through the fiscal year from April 1, 1985, to September 1985.

While the Treasurer of the day has usually asked for more than the projected deficit, I suspect this Treasurer realizes his whole budget is based on some kind of quicksand, his projections are overly optimistic and he will be lucky if his projections do come about.

I also want to ask the Treasurer about the increase in liquid reserves. In Ontario Finances, page 39, total financing for 1984-85 is \$2,039,000,000. In that, the increase in liquid reserves is being drawn down by \$34 million. Net public borrowing is at \$96 million. I presume those are the Treasury bills that have to be refinanced.

I would like to give some statistics since the present incumbent in the chair of the Premier (Mr. Davis) has just come in.

In 1970-71 the deficit was \$566 million; in 1971-72 it almost doubled to \$1,018,000,000; in 1972-73 it was \$744 million; in 1973-74 it was \$708 million; in 1974-75 it was \$977 million; in 1975-76 it was \$1,799,000,000; in 1976-77 it was \$1,319,000,000; in 1977-78 it was \$1,762,000,000; in 1978-79 it was \$1.18 billion; in 1979-80, which happened to coincide with an election year, the deficit was \$584 million; in 1980-81 it was \$803 million; in 1981-82 it was \$1,503,000,000; in 1982-83 it was \$2,478,000,000; in 1983-84 it was \$2.35 billion;

and we have a projection, as I have said, for 1984-85 of \$2.39 billion.

The debt of the province, according to the Treasurer's own estimates, with the addition this year of \$2.39 billion, comes to a total debt of the province, exclusive of Ontario Hydro, of \$24,576,000,000, all money that obviously has to be paid back.

It is interesting that we are here to borrow from these funds, as we have for past years. I suspect the Treasurer and his officials know well, and I will predict, the outcome of the budget for this year will be that we will have a deficit of somewhere between \$2.4 billion and \$2.5 billion. The Treasurer is asking for \$2.6 billion in Bill 74, and I will be moving an amendment to section 1 to substitute \$2.1 billion for \$2.6 billion. It seems to me that will be adequate funding to get us through this fiscal year. I recall the Treasurer's predecessor boasting not that long ago that the projections of the Ontario Treasury were close, within two or three per cent, which was phenomenal.

Given the kind of smoke and mirrors we have seen with the budgetary figures, I think it is sufficient in terms of accountability and responsibility to this chamber and the taxpayers that the Legislature as a whole only give authority to the government for \$2.1 billion, which is somewhere around \$600 million more than is required to cover the estimate for this fiscal year. If the Treasurer of the day needs more funds, he should come back and give an accounting to the Legislature of what has gone wrong with his projections, the economy and everything else.

9:40 p.m.

It seems to me there is not enough accountability in this chamber and to the taxpayers for the management of government funds. If the Treasurer is serious about what he says in the budget, in the projections he makes and in the figures he has provided for us, the taxpayers, the bond raters and everybody else, he should be able to stand in this place and say: "I stand by this and if there is any significant change, I am prepared to come before this Legislature and say I need more money." He should be prepared to do this just as he is prepared to come here and say: "I did not need as much money as I figured because of something called 'cooking the books.'"

Therefore I put the minister on notice that we will be moving an amendment to reduce the figure in Bill 74 from \$2.6 billion to \$2.1 billion. This would give the Legislature an opportunity to have an update on how well the Treasurer and his people are conducting the finances of Ontario. I

see nothing wrong in that kind of accountability. Given past performance, I think it is something that would have a salutary effect on the handling of public funds in Ontario.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this bill. I am not opposed to government borrowing per se, but let me explain. We have just had a budget brought down in this province. Now we are told that for every \$10 the government raises in revenue from all its sources, it wants in addition the power to borrow one dollar. In total, it wants to borrow \$2.6 billion.

By any standard, that is an incredible sum of money. I do not take issue with borrowing per se. My intellectual processes are not short-circuited by the word "deficit." It is one of the ironies of modern political life that the conservatives of all stripes, the conservatives in both the Liberal and Conservative Parties, are the ones who get apoplectic when they hear the word "deficit."

Yet the conservatives in power in Ottawa, under the name of the Liberal Party, and the conservatives in power here under the name of the William G. Davis friendly cornerstore government of Ontario, do run deficits. They are the ones who come forward each year with the work budgets and the borrowing bills that keep building the very deficits which drive them wild.

The Ontario Conservative Party, we should remember, is the party that had a provincial debt in 1975-76 of \$1.9 billion. This was the very year the government announced its restraint era for the first time. Then it allowed that to escalate to \$24.5 billion this year, a debt load increase of 1,189 per cent. This is an accomplishment rivalled by few organizations in Canada.

The only two which come readily to mind are the federal Liberal Party and Dome Petroleum. My Conservative friend, the last of a dying breed, the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor) gives a false and misleading impression to the Legislature when he indicates that the government of Saskatchewan had an increase of debt in that proportion.

The irony of the defeat of the Allan Blakeney NDP government in Saskatchewan was that it was the most fiscally conservative and fiscally responsible government in the country. It was the Tory party, the party of Grant Devine, that irresponsibly removed all the taxation, the responsible mix of taxation that had been built up by the fiscally conservative Allan Blakeney New Democratic Party government of Saskatchewan.

One of the real ironies of politics is that the first socialist government elected in North America was a government that ran on a platform

of wiping out the deficit in Saskatchewan in 1944. Tommy Douglas ran on that platform, he won and he achieved it. He balanced the books in Saskatchewan.

Mr. McClellan: He brought in medicare.

Mr. Foulds: I would just point out, as my colleague the member for Bellwoods so ably does, that not only did Tommy Douglas balance the books in Saskatchewan but he also brought in medicare. It was only the mismanagement of medicare by Tories and Liberals that has allowed any kind of deficit to arise. It is absolutely incredible.

As I have said, borrowing and deficits do not affect me the way they do the member for Prince Edward-Lennox, or the way they do the former member for Chatham-Kent, the soon-to-be-rehabilitated former Treasurer of Ontario, one Honourable Darcy McKeough, who no doubt will have his hat in the ring for the leadership of the Conservative Party in the next runoff sweepstakes in Ontario.

Deficits do not affect me and do not bother me the way they do the Tories; but needless borrowing and unproductive deficits do, frankly, outrage me, and that is what Bill 74 authorizes. It gives the government the power to continue its practice of fiscal witchcraft, of voodoo economics.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you at least, if not the honourable members across the way, will want an example of what I mean. Let us take a look at one small thing that happened in the Legislature this very afternoon.

The leader of the New Democratic Party raised the problem that Toronto's beaches are being devastated by pollution. There are thousands of unemployed construction workers; the sewage systems in the region need millions of dollars' worth of upgrading. Does the government come forward and ask permission to borrow funds to invest in sewage facilities and in putting unemployed workers back to work in order to make the beaches safe for swimming?

Mr. Wildman: No, they want to blame it on the seagulls.

Mr. Foulds: No. Instead, as my friend the member for Algoma, who keeps stealing my best lines, has indicated, the government blames the pollution on the seagulls and sees the problem as a seagull eradication problem; it sees the solution as one of hiring a lot of Dave Winfields to come into the country, and it thinks that will stop the pollution. The reality is that I have done a disservice to Dave Winfield.

But the government claims that the sewage system is not its responsibility and it is not responsible for cleaning up the pollution of the beaches. That is what I call fiscal witchcraft. That is what I say is irresponsible, because if the Treasurer came forward to borrow money for the purposes of investment in facilities that are needed, or for investment in jobs, then we would be more supportive.

9:50 p.m.

It is also fiscal witchcraft to find a government that, while it is preaching restraint, is afraid to borrow money to create jobs and is afraid to borrow money to develop proper sewage facilities in our area, is rapidly climbing up the list of Canada's major advertising spenders, while at the same time it is telling municipalities, school boards and workers to control their spending and wages. To support Bill 74 is to be complicit in everything this government does that is wrong.

The government wants to borrow \$2.6 billion, yet the budget states quite seriously that borrowing will do nothing to alleviate the hardship of the unemployed. What kind of nonsense is that? It is willing to borrow to do nothing, to bloody well tread water, but it is not prepared to borrow to create jobs.

One should think for a minute what \$2.6 billion invested in job creation could do. Think of the recent headlines Honda received because it announced it was investing \$10 million in Ontario. That will provide 350 jobs. This borrowing authorization of \$2.6 billion could create 26 such plants and 26 times the number of jobs.

But the government does not want to borrow to invest in jobs. The government members have the idea in their thick heads that borrowing to invest in jobs is unproductive borrowing. What a topsy-turvy world that is. The budget makes it clear that when all is said and done, when the budget programs and initiatives are in place, Ontario's unemployment level, during this current fiscal year, will remain where it was at the start of the fiscal year.

The Treasurer predicts unemployment will not improve, that for all his announced programs the average monthly annual rate of unemployment will be 9.1 per cent, exactly what it was in March.

Before us this evening is a bill that wants us to give authorization to the government to borrow \$2.6 billion. The Tories do not want to borrow to build homes for people, to renew the environment or to provide for better pensions and laid off workers. They do not want to borrow to provide

for training and education; they are slashing all those programs. They want to borrow to do nothing. This is a bill to borrow to do nothing.

The government wants to borrow to meet its current obligations, not to invest in the future. This Conservative government has been the most fiscally irresponsible government of any provincial government in the country. It rivals the federal Liberal government in its fiscal irresponsibility.

I look forward to all the government back-benchers going to their ridings to explain why the government needs to borrow \$37 million for each and every Tory, including the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen) now sitting in the House, yet they will have nothing to show for it.

Mr. Wildman: He is not sitting in the House.

Mr. Foulds: I used the word with some licence. I used it figuratively rather than literally. I would like each of those Tory back-benchers who are so attentive to the speech this evening to go back to their ridings and say to the people in rural and urban Ontario that the government must borrow \$37 million for each Tory sitting in caucus, and yet it has nothing to show for that debt of \$37 million per back-bench Tory, except more advertising, more consultants, more creative writers, more public relations firms and more polling companies.

What a complete distortion we have of the political process. What a complete abdication we have of social responsibility. What is even more serious for a government that dares to use the word conservative in labelling itself, what a complete abdication of economic responsibilities.

The Conservatives have projected a deficit of over \$2 billion this year. That deficit would not exist if the government put an end to wasteful tax expenditures and broadened the tax base. As I have said previously in this House, there are in this province today \$3 billion in uncollected taxes from the corporate sector alone. If the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the corporate sector and the Tory government are so intent on fiscal responsibility and reducing the deficit, they could wipe out the deficit tomorrow if they collected every one of the uncollected taxes from the corporate sector.

Mr. J. A. Taylor: Why do you keep grinding the faces of the poor businessmen?

Mr. Foulds: Why do we keep grinding the faces of the poor businessmen in the dirt? Because they do not pay their taxes. I ask the

member for Prince Edward-Lennox, the last, living genuine Tory in existence in Ontario—

Mr. Shymko: What do you call the rest of us?

Mr. Foulds: —would he not love to be able to tell his constituents, and would not the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) love to tell his constituents: “You as an individual have the right to defer your taxes this year. You do not have to pay the sales tax this year. You do not have to pay your income tax. Postpone it. Delay it. Defer it.”

Because we are such a fiscally responsible, democratic socialist party, we are saying that we would not tomorrow say that the corporate sector had to recover all of the \$3 billion in one year. What we are saying is, let us collect 10 per cent or 20 per cent a year of that outstanding debt.

Mr. Shymko: Look at the polls. The writing is on the wall.

Mr. Foulds: Would the member like to interject while I take a drink of water, so he can make sense of himself? Absolute silence.

Interjections.

Mr. Boudria: Tell us about Bob Spencer.

Mr. Foulds: Does he mean the person who predated the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri)?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Back to the bill.

Mr. Philip: The member for Yorkview loves group homes almost as much as the member for High Park-Swansea does.

Mr. Shymko: Small businesses employ 60 per cent of the workers in this province.

Mr. Wildman: That is right. Why do you want to kill the small businessman?

Mr. Foulds: Exactly. Why do they allow—

Interjections

Mr. Speaker: I would rather hear you get back to the legislation.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to cut my remarks short so that the member for High Park-Swansea could contribute to the debate, if he had anything to contribute.

10 p.m.

While the government and the Treasurer have projected a deficit of over \$2 billion, that deficit, as I said, would not exist if the government put an end to wasteful tax expenditures and broadened the tax base. It would not exist if more Ontario workers were off the unemployment lines and welfare rolls and contributed taxes to this province by working. The only way that can happen is if this government has the guts to

commit itself to a full employment program, but it has never had the guts or the vision to do that.

Since the last election the Conservatives have borrowed an additional \$7 billion. Is Ontario any better off for that borrowing of \$7 billion? The answer is no. It is an incredible accomplishment to have a government borrow \$7 billion and have the province worse off. Each and every Conservative in this Legislature elected since 1981 is responsible for \$100 million additional debt—

Mr. Wildman: Do you include the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) in that?

Mr. Foulds: He is a borderline case.

Imagine what each member could have done for his own riding if he could have had the administration of that \$100 million—for the ridings, that is, not for himself. Most of the members could have developed community investment programs and job creation programs that would have put this government to shame. Most of the members could have cut unemployment by half with that kind of investment in each of their ridings. The back-bench Conservative members, let alone the front-bench members, cannot say their constituents are now better off because of the government's borrowing.

Can members say to constituents that although their taxes have gone up more than \$1,400 per family and the Tory debt has risen by \$7 billion, their educational system is any better than it was? Can they say their health care system is any better than it was? Can they say child care is more accessible? Can they say their constituents' incomes have improved or their housing has become more affordable or that it is easier for their children to find jobs? Can they say their present jobs are more secure? No, they cannot.

I will give another example. On May 10 this House passed a resolution in favour of financing health care travel for people who found it medically necessary to go to specialist facilities and had to travel more than 200 miles. Last week the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) rejected the resolution that was passed by a majority of government members in this House with a majority of cabinet members present. I would have thought it was binding on a responsible government since the majority of cabinet and the majority of the government party recorded votes in favour of it.

What did the Minister of Health say? First, he gave an inflated cost figure of \$75 million. Then he said that was too expensive. He said the government could not afford it. When we are asked tonight to vote the government the ability to borrow \$2.6 billion, \$75 million is not a lot to

find in that figure to finance a program approved by this Legislature.

The Minister of Health said we cannot afford that program, but this week his colleague the Treasurer comes to us asking the House to pass a bill that will allow the government to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars, enough money, for example, to build 52 hospitals the size of the one proposed for Timmins. Yet in asking for this borrowing and spending authority, the government cannot afford to provide financial assistance to those patients who need medically necessary travel. It cannot even begin to implement the program so that those most in need from northern Ontario could have it implemented within the next two years.

I oppose this bill because I oppose Tory callousness. I oppose, as does my party, this Tory do-nothing budget. I oppose what laughingly passes for Conservative economic and fiscal policy in this province because that policy is not economic, responsible or fiscally sound.

On more than one occasion I have tried to convince the government of the significant difference between investment spending and current spending. I have tried to explain the difference between two types of deficit. There is one that results because the tax system allows the wealthy to shield their income and gives tax breaks to companies with no guarantee of jobs. I contrast that with a deficit that creates real assets, such as factories, houses, roads, sewers, schools, hospitals, day care centres. In other words, I ask them to contrast that first type with a deficit and borrowing that could be productive, useful and a genuine investment.

What we have here is borrowing to do nothing, stand still, tread water and maintain the status quo. We borrow from captive pension funds. I do not object to that. I do object to borrowing from captive funds such as the teachers' superannuation fund and failing to give a fair return on that captive borrowing. I do object to the failure to give the contributors to that pension plan a rightful say in the management of that pension plan, in the kind of investment that pension plan and the government's borrowings should be going into.

I must admit I have yet to be successful in persuading the government members of the difference between a useful deficit and a useless one such as the one before us, but I will keep trying. Tonight the Conservative government should not ask me to give it the authority to go out and borrow \$2.6 billion—more money than some provinces' entire budget—so that it can continue

to do so little for so many people for so much money.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak on a bill which will receive about as much attention in Ontario as most bills that pass this Legislature—very little.

As members will agree, that explains why this government is able to remain in power for 41 years and to give at least some impression of being able to manage the province's finances well. However, we in opposition—and I think deep down in their hearts many on the government side—recognize that this is simply not the case and is somewhat of a myth.

I can think of ways where I would find it easier to be supportive of a bill of this kind. This authorizes the borrowing of some \$2.6 billion. That is a phenomenal sum of money to be allowed to fall into the hands of the Ontario government at a time when the Treasurer is optimistically predicting that his budget will be reduced what he would consider to be significantly. Part of this is due to the federal government, which I think has increased its commitment to the provincial government. Perhaps the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) would help me on the figure. I think it is by \$337 million. This will not be mentioned by anyone on the government side, of course.

10:10 p.m.

Instead, I well recall there was a conference of the provincial Premiers just a few years ago. Among those Premiers calling for fiscal restraint on the part of the federal government and the movement towards a balanced budget was none other than our Premier. Along with the other Premiers, the Premier of Ontario was calling for the federal government to bring its expenditures and revenues closer in line.

When the federal government suggested that might be done by limiting to a greater degree its transfer payments to the provinces, there was a hue and cry that could be heard from one end of Ontario to the other. We even had the then deputy minister of finance brought before the standing committee on public accounts, certainly in questionable circumstances.

As I recall, the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) seemed to come up with some circumstances in which the deputy minister could be before us to dump all over the federal government. I did remind the deputy minister at that time, as well as the members of the committee, that the provincial government has been doing this for years—practising its restraint

on the backs of municipal councils and boards of education across Ontario.

Mr. Van Horne: You just said the federal money was our money. I wonder if the municipalities could say the same thing.

Mr. Bradley: No doubt they could because municipalities across Ontario are really feeling the pinch. Particularly in the last few years, they have been making an honest attempt to hold their expenditures in line. Boards of education have been doing the same. They have been looking at ways of saving money.

Mr. Mitchell: Ho, ho.

Mr. Bradley: Many of them are members of the Progressive Conservative Party, so the "ho, ho" I hear from the member for Carleton (Mr. Mitchell) should be found in Hansard. An honourable member says "ho, ho," and that is the member for Carleton. I will identify him because many of these people are members of the Progressive Conservative Party and they have been honestly trying at the local level to make do with what funds are available.

They recognize what has happened. They recognize that in each year from 1975 to this year, the percentage of the cost of education assumed by the provincial government has declined. It has gone from a very respectable and commendable figure of slightly more than 61 per cent of the cost of education being assumed by the provincial government on average across Ontario in 1975, to a situation now where it is approximately 49.5 per cent. This has really forced local boards of education to do one of two things: increase the local municipal property tax or cut essential services in the field of education.

It is all well and good to ask them to do it, except that the government on that side is the government that mandates many of these programs. It says boards of education have certain responsibilities, and as soon as these programs are put into effect, the financial rug is pulled out from beneath those programs. A prime example is the noncredit courses in continuing education at the secondary school level—a popular program, a good program—which permits more and more people to come back into education and take advantage of our education system in a time of declining enrolment amongst younger people.

What has happened? The provincial government pulled the rug out from that and said, "You will get no more money for continuing education noncredit courses at the secondary level." Boards of education were forced to carry it on, to institute user fees or to cut out the program

entirely, because the government suggested the program and then pulled out the financial rug.

Mr. Speaker, as the member for Peterborough, as we all are members for various constituencies, you would be familiar with the fact that we are to have Bill 82 implemented in full in the fall of 1985. As members of this House will be aware, Bill 82 calls for the provincial government and its local boards of education to serve hard-to-serve students, those who in the past were too often neglected, those who in the past were often left behind in the regular education system. Boards of education will now have to serve, and rightly so, those students who have experienced difficulty in education.

We find that situation confronting the boards and also a great fear that once again this government will not provide the necessary funding. The Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) assures us it will. The experience the boards of education have had in this province indicates exactly the opposite.

Municipalities are faced with the same circumstances. The Treasurer himself would understand this well. He appeared before Metropolitan Toronto council, I believe it was, at the very time he was telling municipalities in this province they should limit their expenditures, live within their means and not be making expenditures that are not entirely necessary. The same Treasurer appeared before a committee of Metropolitan Toronto council pleading, and rightly so in terms of being a local representative and recognizing the need for a traffic light.

Mr. T. P. Reid: But in somewhat bad taste, I thought. He could not convince his own cabinet minister to do something about that.

Mr. Bradley: As my friend the member for Rainy River points out, the Treasurer appeared before one of the committees of Metropolitan Toronto council, a local government, and suggested it should spend more money. He said: "Don't worry, folks, because the Minister of Transportation and Communications will wink at the regular rules and regulations as they apply to subsidies. You people don't have to worry."

I can tell the members about an instance in the city of St. Catharines, at the corner of Facer Street and Grantham Avenue, two streets that are well known right across this province, no doubt.

Mr. Nixon: There is a variety store on the northeast corner.

Mr. Bradley: The member is right. That is the case.

Mr. Nixon: And the pool hall with the plaque with the member's name on it.

Mr. Bradley: That is not the case. Nevertheless, the city of St. Catharines would like to have a traffic light there, but as a part of its budgetary process, because it is not getting enough money from Ontario, that had to be cut from the budget. As a local member, of course, I would like to see that retained in the budget. But I know it is difficult on the one hand to have a provincial government and a Treasurer preaching restraint and on the other hand going to a municipal council and saying, "Restraint, but I want this for my constituents."

There are a lot of needs that must be met at the local level; but they cannot be met as long as this Treasurer is being so stingy with funds to the municipalities. He has all kinds of money to spend on government advertising, and there is no limit to the expenditures on the bicentennial. We will all enjoy the bicentennial. We had some interesting activities out front. We have some special guests coming to Ontario, and no doubt we will enjoy the bicentennial. But it is going to be a little difficult for boards of education and municipalities that are having a hard time scraping the funds together, who are looking to provide affordable housing to people in low-income brackets, to see the amount of money being blown on circuses at a time when we need bread.

This government is clever. It knows there probably is not a good political case to be made for being against fun and games in the province. When the local people ask me to plant a tree, I will go there and plant the tree and attend the activities, to be a good chap about it, but recognizing all along, as a history teacher, that I really do not know the historical significance of 1784. I recognize 1791 as being an important date in our history in Ontario, but 1784 was probably created in the mind of Hugh Segal or one of the other political beagles who advised the provincial government it would be a great idea.

The government has the new bicentennial song. Do members know what this reminds me of? The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling). I would abolish that post as well. I would not abolish the minister, but I would abolish the post. It is a wasteful expenditure. We should not be borrowing money to pay his salary in that position.

10:20 p.m.

Where was I? Oh yes, we were in eastern Ontario. We heard today that we need money to give to certain companies so they can send a letter out to employees, saying: "Folks, we have a letter we have to send out."

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Do not crawl into the gutter.

Mr. Bradley: That is not in the gutter at all. I would say that is gutter politics on your part.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: On whose part?

Mr. Bradley: On the government's part.

If this happened in Ottawa, it would be a big story. The opposition would be pointing and saying, "The government should resign and give back its salary for the last three years." What happens in Ontario? It is just buried; it is not all that significant, because it is good old Ontario. Those people have a piece of cake here, because they do not have the same level of attention devoted to this place as is devoted to the House of Commons. That suits them quite nicely, and they coast along on it. But that is the kind of expenditure we are talking about when we talk about borrowing \$2.6 billion.

As we have pointed out—and I notice the *Toronto Star* has taken this up as well—recently released figures show that spending on outside consultants has jumped in the past few years, despite the province's nine and five restraint program. The Ministry of Government Services spent \$1 million on management consultants in 1982-83; that is a 43 per cent rise from the year before. Since 1977-78 spending has gone up by 500 per cent. Because the consultants are not regular civil servants, they are excluded from the bureaucratic head counts the government often uses to claim increased efficiency.

Of course, this is a trick these people play. They show the figures, and some of their friends around the province troop these figures out and say: "Look what this government has done. It is a lean government; it has trimmed the civil service." But it has brought its friends back as consultants, and that of course gives them the best of both worlds. Yet the Treasurer suggests the opposition should be providing the sum of \$2.6 billion so he can carry on that kind of program.

If he were making expenditures that we in the opposition could support by borrowing that amount of money; if there were a well-thought-out program to assist municipalities, boards of education and the disadvantaged in this province; if he were trimming those expenditures that were nonessential, it would be much easier to show support for this bill.

But this government is spending, I would estimate, more than \$50 million in advertising this year. I can hear the bicentennial song now. Who remembers 1967? In 1967, when we had a viable alternative to this government—I ran in an

election at that time at a very young age—all I heard during the election was the song, "A place to stand and a place to grow, Ontari-ari-o." Everyone was made to feel good about what was going on in this province.

Now we have the bicentennial song, and I can just hear the voice-over saying what a great place Ontario is and let us continue on with this fine tradition—all of this financed, of course, with the taxpayers' money.

As my friend the member for Rainy River has indicated on many occasions, it is difficult to justify the borrowing of \$2.6 billion when you know how much of the taxpayers' money this government is spending on polling. It takes polls about everything it could possibly want to ask about as a government so it can then get out in front of the parade, having learned what the polls tell it.

I guess if it were doing this as the Progressive Conservative Party with Progressive Conservative funds, one would be less critical of that style of government. Instead, of course, this government is taking taxpayers' dollars, keeping the results of the polls secret from everyone except the Progressive Conservatives over there and attempting to justify an expenditure and a borrowing of \$2.6 billion on that basis.

Surely this kind of government does not deserve that kind of money from those of us who sit in this assembly. I suspect even those sitting on the government benches who are somewhat careful about government expenditures, would be just a little uneasy about those kinds of expenditures.

This government could, for instance, attempt to meet the needs of hospitals in this province in a meaningful way. I notice there was an expenditure for the Shaver Hospital for Chest Diseases in St. Catharines, and much of it was raised at the local level. The minister's parliamentary assistant, the member for Carleton, was in St. Catharines—and by the way, he did a nice job of speaking to the people that day, as he always does; he is a friendly and outgoing fellow, so the government was represented well. When I got home that day, I noticed in the *St. Catharines Standard* a quarter- or one-third-page ad saying, "Look what your government has done for you."

Surely, with the press releases the government issues and the access it has to the media, that should be sufficient to outline whatever contribution this government was making on behalf of the taxpayers of Ontario. Instead, it blows a pile of money in local newspapers to toot its own horn once again. We get into this whole advertising

and public relations game the people on the opposite side play, apparently with some impugntiy because few people in this province seem to be aware of it, even though it is doing a good job of spending money on those nonessential items.

We can never let a debate go by without mentioning the government expenditure on Suncor of \$650 million. The people in my riding who have complained the most about that are Progressive Conservative friends I have, who say: "While you are there, we would like you to put in a word for us. We are not interested in an expenditure of \$650 million for shares in an oil company. We wonder how our government can build up its deficit the way it has, and ask to borrow some \$2.6 billion, when it squanders it on questionable investments, when a provincial government that has virtually no oil in this province is busy investing in an oil company known as Suncor."

They also question the land banking schemes. One would expect our friends to the left to be in favour of land banking schemes. It is within their political philosophy. They feel it can be a justifiable expenditure. I appreciate the fact that it is within their line of thinking.

However, we in the official opposition cannot understand how a so-called Conservative government can spend money on so many land banking schemes. Even my friends in the New Democratic Party would agree with that. Many of those schemes are of questionable value. This has been proven to be the case.

Time and again we have seen this government make questionable expenditures. It is a government that is fat in its expenditures and knows no bounds when it wants to spend on itself. Right after the provincial election, we had the case of the Premier wanting to buy a new, \$10.6-million Challenger jet for the comfort and convenience of the cabinet and senior government advisers. Fortunately, an astute, alert and persistent opposition ended up preventing this government from having its new toy, because even the Tories in the province were embarrassed by that.

I well remember that when I brought my resolution forward, even the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), the person who probably has his pulse more on the grass-roots level in northern Ontario than any other member, voted in favour of my resolution because, despite the pronouncements of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché), the emperor of the north and others that this was a so-called service to northern

Ontario, he recognized that it was essentially for the comfort and convenience of the government.

He understood this was a government of patronage and privilege. It was not essential, and he had the guts to stand up and vote for that resolution. I give the member for Fort William a good deal of credit for standing with us in opposition to that expenditure.

I am certain if it had the chance to do it again and thought it could get away with it, this government would borrow money so it could get involved in an expenditure of that kind.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: You are a jerk.

Mr. Bradley: Did the members hear that? The Mississauga rattler has just referred to the member for St. Catharines as a jerk.

Hon. Mr. Eaton: He is right on.

Mr. Bradley: The woman beside him has repeated it.

Mr. Speaker: Now back to the bill.

Mr. Bradley: I would say they are two people who should recognize—

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Surely you might ask the minister to withdraw that word. It is not that bad, but I suggest it is not parliamentary.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I do not see anything unparliamentary about it. I regard the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) as a jerk.

Mr. Speaker: I ask the honourable member to withdraw that word. Although it may or may not be parliamentary, it was provocative. In order to maintain peace and harmony, I think you would be—do not take advice, please; just withdraw the word.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, as is my habit, I will abide by your advice and withdraw the remark.

Mr. Speaker: If the member for St. Catharines would be good enough to withdraw any unparliamentary language he used, and I think it was a provocative reference to the member, I would appreciate it.

Mr. Bradley: I always want to comply with the Speaker's request.

Mr. Speaker: I know you do.

Mr. Bradley: I will certainly withdraw the terminology that was used by an editorial writer for the Windsor Star who referred to the member as "the Mississauga rattler." I withdraw that remark and any other remarks that may have been unparliamentary.

Mr. Speaker: I ask the honourable member to take a look at the clock and adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, June 7, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, June 7, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

PUBLICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I would like very briefly to draw to the attention of the House something that I know members have all received, or I believe they have received, which is the three-volume publication called *Legislators and Legislatures of Ontario: A Reference Guide*, which has been produced under the very able hand of Ms. Debra Forman in the legislative library.

I have had the opportunity to peruse this document. It is very informative; it is excellent. As a former researcher myself, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that I know it will be appreciated not only by members of this assembly but also by many others in the province and in the country.

I wanted simply to note the excellent work of Ms. Forman, who has set a very high standard of research in this very helpful document. As is always the case with the legislative library, in my view, they have discharged their responsibilities with excellence and with diligence. I certainly commend Ms. Forman for her excellent work in this regard.

Mr. Speaker: There is certainly no doubt about that, and obviously all members endorse your words.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: While we are on that subject, I ask all members of the assembly to join with me in recognizing in the Speaker's gallery members of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada, who are meeting in Toronto.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The minister will no doubt be aware of the report today of the subcommittee on acid rain of the standing committee on fisheries and forestry of the House of Commons of Canada. It is an all-party committee, including the former Con-

servative Minister of the Environment, John Fraser.

I am sure the minister is aware by now of pages 41 and 42, which deal with his performance and that of Ontario Hydro. This is the most devastating indictment of the acid rain policies of Hydro and of this government that could ever be imagined. It questions not only the minister's policies but also his credibility.

I refer the minister specifically to the things it says. It feels that Ontario Hydro's stated acid rain control strategy is imprecise and undependable. It says it has forfeited its leadership role; it is at best unworthy and at worst irresponsible. Because of the many broken promises, the constant changing of rules in a self-serving way, I ask when the minister is going to install scrubbers in Ontario Hydro facilities.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, we have covered this question on a number of occasions in this House. On this side, there have been no broken promises with respect to either Ontario Hydro or the scrubbers issue. The Leader of the Opposition knows full well that the control order that has been placed on Ontario Hydro is triggered in 1986 and in 1990. That lead time was established with the specific purpose of allowing Ontario Hydro to put all its programs into place prior to the reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions being required of it.

There are no broken promises when 1986 is not yet here, to the best of my knowledge. The report the honourable member is talking about was released at 11 o'clock this morning. I have not had an opportunity to review it in complete detail.

Mr. Peterson: I have.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I intend to do so. Perhaps the member had the luxury of some time to do that. I have not had that opportunity as yet. I will be most happy to respond to the report, and I intend to do so when I have had an opportunity to read it in detail. Can I get to the issue of scrubbers, Mr. Speaker, and then I—

Mr. Speaker: You said you would address it when you have had time to study it.

Mr. Peterson: I do not want to be unkind, and I know the rules of this House prevent me from

calling any member or institution a liar or accusing them of misleading this House, so I will not do that. Instead, I will read to the minister from the report, which he should have been briefed on by now. It never ceases to amaze me how the minister is briefed when it serves his cause and not briefed when it does not serve his cause.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I refer him specifically to page 41 of his copy. It says: "In October, when the corporation appeared before the subcommittee in Toronto, we were told that Ontario Hydro was an insignificant contributor to Canada's acid rain problem. Three months later, it was announced that the utility was planning to design and install two flue gas desulphurization units to contain emissions."

It goes on: "Since then we have heard a different story. In June, the utility appeared before the subcommittee in Ottawa, stating scrubbers were not needed to meet the new Ontario government standards. Since then, the corporation has revised its demand forecast upward and virtually juggled its forecast."

The committee does not believe the minister. It does not believe Ontario Hydro. Those are some of the minister's own colleagues. How does the minister expect us to believe him in this House when he has been making all these pious speeches about Ontario leading the way? His credibility is being ruined, would he not agree?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I would not agree with the Leader of the Opposition. He is the one who pours forth with all the pious comments. In this House I have answered him directly with respect to a very short-term increase in sulphur dioxide emissions from Ontario Hydro. I have indicated to him that if it is necessary for scrubbers to be installed, that matter will be reviewed by Ontario Hydro, with whatever changing circumstances, perhaps relating to the problems with the nuclear program, being taken into account.

At this time, I am not going to give the member an absolute undertaking that scrubbers are going to be required by my ministry, first and foremost because my ministry under normal circumstances does not require of any industry or public utility that a particular type of technology be installed. We ask an industry to meet certain target levels of abatement, and in the case of Ontario Hydro, the member knows full well what they are.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, we are delighted the parliamentary committee has confirmed what we

in our party have been saying for some time, that Hydro has not lived up to its commitments and that it has in effect cooked the books with respect to the reductions it alleges are going to take place because of the artificially high figures the ministry set out earlier.

Is the minister denying that Ontario Hydro at one time made a specific commitment with respect to the installation of scrubbers and then reneged on that commitment? If he is, how can he possibly do so, since the record is so crystal-clear as to what Hydro promised and that it reneged on the original promise?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, in no way has Hydro cooked the books, as is being suggested by the leader of the third party. The reality is that, as a result of certain problems with the nuclear program of which we are all aware, some plants are not operating with clean power, which was anticipated.

It would be interesting to hear what the third party's position is with respect to power. Does it want nuclear power now? Does it want coal-fired power? Is that party still on wind power or some other fantasy energy program? Why does the honourable member not tell us what his party's position is?

Mr. Rae: We want clean power.

Mr. Martel: Keep the promise.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: We happen to be working in the real world where we attempt to solve problems that are real problems. In the short term, there has been an increase in sulphur dioxide emissions, but the member knows full well that Ontario Hydro is going to have to meet the abatement levels by 1986. That is the commitment I give the member in this House.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the minister, who seems to have found an alternative source of energy; that is, wind power. If that source could solve our problems, they would be solved singlehandedly.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Elston: I would like to bring the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), posing as the Minister of the Environment, back to the real world. We reminded him that there are problems with the maple trees dying in Parry Sound. We reminded him of the readings in the Ottawa Valley which showed the pH levels had fallen to 3.7. We remind him now that the readings on May 28 in Muskoka-Haliburton were 4.6 and the readings on May 28 from Longwood, near London, were 4.5.

The minister must surely agree that this serves to underline the critical need for controls being placed on sulphur dioxide emissions in Ontario. We had promises in the throne speech in 1982—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Elston: When will the minister live up to his promise to cut back the emissions, which are damaging not only areas in northern Ontario but also areas throughout the whole province?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, a similar question was raised, I believe last week, by the official opposition with respect to the so-called deposition levels in the Ottawa Valley area. The suggestion was made by one of my friends opposite to the effect that all the emissions came from Ontario Hydro. I can tell the honourable member that is unalterably incorrect. The reality is that only a very small part of the emissions came from Ontario Hydro. The emissions centred on the United States; that is where they came from.

We are concerned as well about the maple tree problem. I announced this week that I am undertaking a study to determine exactly what the problems are with respect to that part of our forest industry.

This government, in co-operation with the federal government, has made a commitment to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 50 per cent by 1994. That is a commitment we stand by. It is one of the strongest commitments I know of in any jurisdiction. We are undergoing meetings at this time to put the technology into place to meet that level of reduction. We intend to be successful in so doing. The member will just have to be a little patient.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer concerning youth unemployment in this province. As he knows, according to the figures we are working on—last month's figures—there were 169,000 unemployed young people in this province. He is also aware that the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto has published a report that disagrees fundamentally with those figures across this country and believes the real rate of youth unemployment is substantially higher.

The Treasurer will also be aware of one of his own documents. The Ontario Manpower Commission in a document stamped "Preliminary Draft—Not for Quotation" says, "Among those not working but who are available and want to work there are some who are counted as unemployed and some who are not, i.e., the

hidden unemployed." This document of the minister's government believes the real rate of youth unemployment is higher than that publicly stated in the figures commonly used by him and by others.

What does the Treasurer believe is the real rate of youth unemployment in the province? How many does he believe are unemployed in real numbers now? What are his targets? How many jobs is he going to create with his new, rearranged and renamed programs? How far is he going to attack this real problem?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure which of those four or five questions the Leader of the Opposition wants answered, so I will perhaps select the ones I want to answer.

If he really studied the budget document, he would know it was not an attempt to solve or deal with the youth unemployment problem by simply pretending to create jobs for a few months. It will take a lot of those young people and give them educational upgrading, job training, job experience and some jobs.

In that sense the answer to his question is that they are not all going to get jobs. What they are all going to be offered is an opportunity to get retraining, to get upgrading, to get jobs and to get some job experience.

That is the right approach, whether the number is 40,000 or 169,000 or 180,000. The budget is not limited in the sense that we will cut off funding at any particular level based upon 169,000 people, and that is the important point behind the honourable member's question.

Mr. Peterson: It is obvious the Treasurer still does not know what he is doing and what his plans and targets are.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: This is obviously not management by objectives in any meaningful way.

For example, one of the promises in the Treasurer's budget was a hot line for unemployed young people. It was announced yesterday, or at least we became aware of it yesterday. We phoned yesterday and were told that no information is available about youth employment programs in this province other than what is in the budget, and the hot line counsellors can provide only the names and scanty outlines of programs already made public. They do not know when additional information will be available or when the programs will be operational—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: —and all the young people can do is leave their names on mailing lists. Those

who want to receive information on ongoing programs will have to wait two or three weeks.

The Treasurer is aware that for many of the unemployed students the summer is almost half over, or at least it will be when these programs and information are available.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Peterson: Why is the Treasurer trying to fool people into thinking he is providing meaningful information when his own youth hot line people do not know what his programs are?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Of course, they did not say they did not know what the programs were; they said the information contained in the budget is the information that is available.

Mr. Martel: We phoned for the information. It is not available.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I told the members opposite and the House some time ago that the—

Mr. Wrye: Call back in August.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: It is malarkey. You phone for the information and it is not available.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My friend has not made an important contribution to this.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Never mind the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I indicated some time ago that the startup dates for these programs would vary according to the type of program it is. All of those programs are still on stream with respect to their startup dates. Therefore, when the young people call, we are taking the information with regard to their circumstances, and obviously we are going to notify those young people and follow up with them when the appropriate opportunity becomes available for them. That is surely the prudent thing to do; that is exactly what is being done.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, can the Treasurer give us any concrete examples and concrete dates for when his youth job creation programs are going to start? My colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) phoned last week and asked, and no information was available from the ministry. Is the Treasurer's youth job creation program like the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program? He announced it and his successor came in and said there was no program, no money, no budget and no jobs. Are they going to have to wait until the real bicentennial to get a job?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, some time ago I indicated in this House that those programs had various startup dates. Ken Dryden is in place; he started as of June 1. He is working now on several of the initiatives. The summer employment programs are running. The Ontario youth employment program with the new twists and features is now in place. They are being phased in as they are ready.

I know the member had a difficult time because we had so many new programs that he was left with nothing he could say we had left out. The member was prepared to say we had done nothing about youth employment, we had no new programs and it was the old traditional thing. However, the member could not say any of that. All he has left now is, "When are you going to start those new programs?"

I have no sympathy for his problem. I can only tell him they will all be ready over the next few months. Everything is proceeding apace. The member will find himself even more frustrated this coming fall when we are back here and if we are not back here this fall, he will be more frustrated than he is today.

Mr. Peterson: That is the silliest response I have ever heard. What does that do for students who are looking for work this summer? I will refer specifically to some of the figures. The number of students registered and looking for work in Ottawa is 12,127; the number of students placed in jobs is 1,410.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will you please place your question.

Mr. Peterson: I am placing my question. I am informing him of the facts.

Mr. Speaker: I think I have been very patient with letting you refer to facts and figures. Please place your question.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you would not want to be accused of being like the government and not caring about facts, figures and specifics. I think it is important that we educate these people as to the realities in this province. In Toronto, there are 34,553 students registered and looking for work; 9,435 of them have been placed. Sudbury has 5,400 students registered and 639 placed.

Mr. Speaker: Question now, please.

Mr. Peterson: The list goes on and on. What is the Treasurer doing immediately for students looking for work this summer?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We are now creating over 100,000 jobs this summer for those young people. Let us start there. Let us also agree that

problem will come back year after year if we adopt the old tired Liberal approach, which is to send the kid out to paint a fence, stand up and brag they have solved the problem for the kid, and then spend another \$100 million under their kind of program to create 14,000 jobs. That was their program: 14,000 jobs for \$100 million. That is Liberal economics, Liberal philosophy and Liberal politics.

We will be here five years from today. The member's colleagues will be here but he will not be. A lot of those young people will have permanent, real jobs because of new, long-term programs introduced for those young people, not the short-term, old-time economics of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I draw to your attention once again that from my vantage point you appeared surprisingly unevenhanded in your treatment of the Leader of the Opposition and the Treasurer, whom you let go on endlessly with a litany of editorial comments.

I accept absolutely your intention to rein in those members who stray beyond the rules as you interpret them. However, from my vantage point, in that last exchange you allowed the Treasurer an editorial latitude which you appeared quite unwilling to allow the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: I first point out to the member for Renfrew North that he did not have a point of order. I am not going to stop the clock because we have 39 minutes remaining for all the members to ask questions. For your information, from your vantage point and from my vantage point, the Treasurer used less than a minute for his reply. New question.

Mr. Conway: On a point of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: No.

Mr. Conway: On a point of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: No. This is an abuse of members' time.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, you badger people on this side five seconds into their questions, and yet you make no effort at all to rein in a minister, such as the Treasurer during his most recent response.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: If you are going to badger this side, I would like you to badger that side; then I will accept your treatment under those conditions.

Mr. Speaker: I will not accept badgering from any side. I make that very clear.

Mr. Conway: Nor will I, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: You will not, in my view, have successful discharge of your duties—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member sit down, please.

Mr. Conway: —if you treat this side differently and more unfairly than the way you treat that side.

Mr. Speaker: While you have stated your position very clearly, you are obviously out of order. It is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Martel: He is using my time now.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is our time now.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, it is your time; it is all the members' time.

TRAUMA UNITS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health.

Yesterday, together with members of my staff and my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke), I toured the trauma centre at Sunnybrook Medical Centre. I was advised by Dr. Robert McMurtry, the clinical director of that hospital, that up to 400 people in Ontario are dying unnecessarily every year because of the failure of this government to designate certain hospitals as trauma centres and to create a program across the province that will save lives and time, and save, harbour and husband resources effectively to care for people who are dying unnecessarily from accidents.

I would like to ask the minister why there is this unconscionable delay in implementing central programs of designating trauma units and creating paramedic programs to deal with this tragedy of 400 people dying needlessly and tragically every year because of the failure of government to act?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, regardless of who might have made such a statement, I can assure you that, in the opinion of most well-informed experts, that kind of statement is totally indefensible and irresponsible. I do not care who the individual is who made it; I think he does himself and the medical profession a disservice by engaging in those kinds of histrionics.

First of all, I would point out that the ministry has clearly indicated its approach to the establishment of trauma units and emergency health services across the province. It is something that can only be done responsibly, on a carefully planned basis, and implemented over time. It will also be closely tied to the establishment of

paramedic programs throughout the province, and that is now under way in the initial stages, as the honourable member is aware.

I do know there is a request from Sunnybrook Medical Centre with respect to some additional expansion within its trauma unit, and that is under review at the moment by the ministry. But if the particular physician to whom the member referred thinks he is going to further his cause by making irresponsible statements, he had better pause and think about it.

Mr. Rae: That kind of cheesy intimidation from the minister will not shut up people with integrity in the medical profession, or in any other profession, and the minister had better learn that.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: I want to say to the minister that the evidence that has been compiled, not only by Dr. McMurtry but also by other people working in the trauma field, is overwhelming. There is now the expertise available, if we can concentrate and focus efforts in different parts of the province, to save lives today where lives are being lost.

Those are the hard facts. They have been assessed medically. They have been assessed by experts in the field. The minister simply does not know what he is talking about when he makes those kinds of cheap, incriminatory remarks about people in the profession who care about what is happening to people who are dying without cause when they could be saved.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Why has the minister failed to move in developing, across the province, a paramedic program worthy of the name? Why has he failed to designate those centres that want now to be designated as trauma centres when the need is there, the demand is there and the expertise is there. The only thing lacking is the political will.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I made my comments earlier, not to attempt to intimidate anyone, but because I think it is important that members of the medical profession understand, when those kinds of statements are made irresponsibly, they are not going to intimidate the minister either.

This province has embarked in a most responsible way upon the development of an emergency health system across the province. We will have a paramedic training program second to none in the world based upon an extensive review of paramedical programs in other jurisdictions. We are benefiting from the errors that have been made there. It is now under

way and it will be expanded across the province as it evolves appropriately. We are not going to get into some kind of irresponsible crash program. It is going to be developed in a way that will serve the interests of the people of this province very well.

I would also point out to the member that if he thinks nothing is being done in the area of emergency health across the province now, then he ought to visit a few more hospitals. There are very competent emergency departments in hospitals across the province that are now very responsibly dealing with emergency trauma cases. In many instances where it is deemed to be necessary, once the patient is stabilized in the emergency department of a hospital, he can be transferred to a trauma unit, such as Sunnybrook. That does not mean there is any justification for engaging in a panic reaction and having a crash program based totally upon unsubstantiated statements such as the member has quoted here in the House.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, the minister will be aware that there has been a proposal for a trauma unit at Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital in Windsor for some period of time. The proposal came to the forefront as a result of an inquiry in the riding of my colleague the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) into the death of an individual in the southern part of the county who might have been saved had there been a trauma unit at Hotel Dieu Hospital.

I received a letter from the minister some two weeks ago, which at best was unencouraging, in which the minister said there were a lot of proposals.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wrye: What is the minister going to do about getting a trauma unit for Essex county in terms of establishing trauma units at various centres all over the province?

Mr. Martel: In the fullness of time.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, yes, I suppose that is an appropriate response. Obviously, the centres across the province will be considered as the program develops. Again, I think it is important that the members who are interested in emergency health services look at them in the total and proper context. What we are approaching in Ontario is not a piecemeal kind of emergency health response. The concept is for a comprehensive response capability, of which a trauma unit is only one part.

If the system is going to function very well, then there are a number of early planning steps

that must be taken by the local community. It really ought at that stage also to involve integrated planning among the health services, the fire departments, the police and so on, so the planning takes place on the proper basis from the very beginning.

In some communities that has already taken place. If it is not taking place in Essex county, then I think the member ought to propose that they do that. There is responsibility at the local level for those early stages. I have encouraged local communities—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Rae: The hard fact is that people in Ontario whose lives could be saved are dying. That is the hard fact. There is substantiated, documented proof. That is what the medical professionals are telling us now. There is overwhelming evidence on that in the United States and from Europe.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Has the minister read the article in the January issue of the Journal of Trauma that substantiated the degree of the problem in Canada and the lives being lost today? Has he seen the studies from the United States, from Orange county, that show the dramatic reduction in the number of deaths when a trauma centre is established? Has he seen the studies done in West Germany that show deaths from car accidents were reduced by 25 per cent when trauma centres were established in that country? Has he read those studies?

Why is he failing to act on the clear recommendations of the health council, the clear recommendations from professionals in the field that the time to act is now, that lives are being lost unnecessarily and it is only the hideous lethargy and laziness and slothfulness of this government that are causing unnecessary tragedy today in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: My goodness, Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member keeps that up, he is going to become articulate.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I doubt it.

Mr. McClellan: That is something the minister will never have to worry about.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would never want to give the member anything to worry about, so I shall not challenge that.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the answer, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: To suggest we are not responding to the recommendations of the district health council is patently false. Of course

we are responding to the report and I think the district health council is well aware of that. In fact, there have been meetings with the committee of the council that made those recommendations. Our formal response will be ready within the next few weeks.

Once again, I would point out it does not mean we are going either to plan or to be able to respond on all fronts at once. It will have to be a phased and planned evolutionary process. As the member knows, the committee is recommending three additional units for Toronto. I do not suppose all three will be approved at one time, but we are now looking at where appropriate locations for them might be.

PENSION REFORM

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the meeting he has just come away from, which apparently has agreed on some changes to the vesting rule in private pension plans from 10 years to five years, I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us how many workers in Ontario will benefit from that change.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information with me today.

Mr. Rae: Since the Treasurer does not have the information for the House and seems to have entered into a program without knowing how many people are going to benefit from it, can he confirm that about half the workers in Ontario do not have a pension plan and about half of Canadian workers do not last in a job for five years? Can he confirm those facts?

Can he please tell us why there has been so much foofaraw and focus on reforms that touch a minority of workers, and no focus on reforms that would affect and benefit all Canadian workers? Such reforms would relate to early retirement, guaranteeing pension plans for everybody, and ensuring a decent level of income for every worker when he or she retires. Why is there such a narrow focus when so many workers are excluded from all those discussions that have taken place over the last few days?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: First, I would say the honourable member's facts are roughly accurate.

Second, as he would have it, attention is being paid to these activities because they are important; there is a half of all workers who are covered and who are very dramatically affected by the changes we all agreed upon last Tuesday.

Third, it is not that items were neglected; it is that in terms of the process, a decision was made that the private pension plan item, for which responsibility for uniformity largely lies with the

provincial governments, would be the items dealt with by the provincial pension ministers.

2:40 p.m.

The larger question the member refers to relates to Canada pension plan changes. That obviously lies largely with the federal government. It has been put on our agenda as provincial pension ministers for this fall in order that we might try to reach some agreement with regard to CPP changes to recommend to the federal government. Ontario's position on those changes is quite open, acknowledged and public. None the less, I want to clarify that Tuesday's meeting was on private pension plans, which are important. I know the member acknowledges them as important. CPP changes are largely for the federal government's attention.

Mr. Rae: Is the minister telling us 75 per cent of the work force is not covered by the so-called reforms that have taken place? Why did Ontario not push for major reforms with respect to early retirement, pension coverage for part-time workers and better benefits than have so far been given, other than the very minor changes that have been made to the guaranteed annual income system, to ensure that single people who are over 65 and below the poverty line will be given greater assistance than they are getting today? Why not make some immediate changes rather than this glacial pace of reform which has excluded so many workers from the process of pension improvement?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member is wrong. He has not studied at any length what we did last Tuesday. Vesting was one of about 25 items that were agreed upon. Those 25 items ranged from survivor benefits to credit splitting to portability. I do not think the member would want the public—

Mr. Rae: If it is not vested, it cannot be carried.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member is just plain wrong on that. He does not understand what we did on Tuesday.

Mr. Foulds: Does the Treasurer?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, when the member's leader—never mind. I do not want to be that partisan this afternoon.

Mr. Foulds: If it is not vested, one does not have a pension.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The leader of the third party suggested it was time we did something for part-time workers. Item 8 or 9, which was agreed

upon on Tuesday, dealt with the question of part-time workers and their eligibility for participation in the private pension plans that exist in firms. That is an important change we made that does deal with part-time workers.

The member's researchers may have failed to pick up the fact that one of the items that he complains was not dealt with was in fact dealt with quite specifically. When he checks off the list of 25 items, in fairness, he might want to acknowledge that vesting was not the only one, but one of 20 or 25 major initiatives.

Finally, I do not agree with the member and will not agree with him that only 25 per cent of the work force is affected by the changes we agreed to on Tuesday in what will prove to be a historic meeting of pension ministers.

ACTIVITIES OF POLICE

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. He is no doubt aware of a report in the Ottawa Citizen today that Mr. Jack Ellis has been under investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police for suspected arson and insurance frauds since last fall. Could the minister explain why the OPP anti-rackets squad was called in last November after a two-week probe by the Ontario fire marshal's office, when a year earlier the Belleville OPP attachment discontinued its investigation? Could the minister also explain why the Belleville OPP discontinued its investigation into this alleged incident?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I would like to confess I am a regular reader of the Ottawa Citizen, but I am not, nor am I aware of the article in that newspaper. I will take the member's remarks as notice to obtain the information, if it is available. I am not fully aware of all the matters he has raised.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, when the minister is inquiring into the situation with respect to the Belleville OPP, will he assure us that before the House adjourns we will have a report on any delays that may have been occasioned in this matter?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I will try to get the information on this matter as quickly as possible.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour following from his statements in this House last week about the engineering controls and lead assessment at Mack Canada. I have copies of the lead assessment and control by Mack Canada and the subsequent studies related to that, the Industrial

Accident Prevention Association study, the Concord Scientific Corp. study, and the Proctor and Redfern study.

Is the minister aware that in all those there is no reference at all to engineering controls, despite what he said in the House? None examines substitution, changes in enclosure, ventilation or the spray painting system. If he is aware of that, does he not agree that the ministry's reliance on the 1975 ventilation system, installed by the company before it even started to use lead paints, and on respirators for the workers, makes a mockery of his ministry's lead regulation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I do not agree.

Mr. Wildman: Is the minister aware that, even in this lead control by Mack, they recognize there should be further tests for ambient lead levels? If that is the case, is the minister prepared to agree today that a hazard exists for workers, if there are high levels of lead in the air, and that the levels at Mack are high enough to require engineering controls in compliance with the regulation? Is it not true that it is not enough to depend on blood level lead tests to determine whether there is a hazard at Mack Canada?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: First, I have to repeat what I said on previous occasions. It has been determined by the medical surveillance that there is no danger to those workers.

Further, the honourable member asked me about the spray-paint booth. I have here a document, which I would be prepared to send over to him, from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. Its standards have been followed with respect to the Mack exterior paint booth. It meets the criteria of the ventilation manual as per this organization, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

RECYCLING

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Is the minister aware that the hundreds of newspapers that are read or unused at Queen's Park are not recycled? Is he aware that in one edition a large Toronto newspaper uses some 2,500 trees and that in a year it uses some 800,000 trees?

I wonder if the minister will agree with me that we are overdue in having a program here at Queen's Park to participate in a meaningful way in recycling newsprint to save energy and protect the environment.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the member for Niagara Falls.

First, we do have a paper recycling program in place now at Queen's Park.

Mr. Kerrio: That is for fine paper. Set that aside. What about newspapers?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Does the member want to ask the question and answer it too, because I will sit down if I am disturbing him?

Mr. Speaker: Order. No.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It would save a lot of time. Then the member could perhaps check with us after he has resolved the issue.

An hon. member: Talk to yourself, Vince.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The member for Niagara Falls talks to himself all the time.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the answer, please.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: As to the second part of my answer, I would like to share with the honourable member the fact that my ministry does have some initiatives that I am going to be most pleased to announce to this House at the appropriate time with respect to further paper recycling. I know the member will welcome that news when it is released.

Mr. Kerrio: I wonder if the minister is aware that not long ago the government put \$21 million into a \$260-million renovation and expansion at the Ontario Paper plant in Thorold. The Premier (Mr. Davis) himself was there to cut the ribbon.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Himself? So were you.

Mr. Kerrio: I was participating as a true free enterpriser and not like half of those so-called free enterprisers. The important thing here is—

Mr. Martel: That is true free enterprise—the public purse. They got some government money.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, would you quiet them down?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Niagara Falls please place his question.

Mr. Kerrio: After having put such a substantial amount of money into that kind of program, why is it taking the minister so long to recycle actually tons of paper that comes through Queen's Park, where it could be collected very easily, in order to show some kind of leadership in this field? The city of Toronto is doing it and many other jurisdictions are doing it. The Boy Scouts have to go door to door to collect their papers. We have tons of it here. When is he going to do his job and do it properly?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: If the member for Niagara Falls were to speak to some of his colleagues on that side of the House—from the city of Kitchener, for example—they would quickly tell him that we in this ministry have a very ambitious program not only in that great community but in other communities across Ontario. We are going to expand that program to fill the needs of the Ontario Paper plant at Thorold.

I personally went through that plant not all that long ago. I am very impressed with the operation. There is no question whatever that they do require an additional amount of tonnage of paper to be recycled for their purposes. I will do what I can to encourage that program because I think it is an excellent one. I appreciate the question.

FOURWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. In view of the fact that the Ministry of Education and the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) have copped out in meeting their responsibilities to fund the full education portion of the Fourway Public School by approving funding for only \$400,000 after they had approved the expenditure of \$700,000 in the educational component, will the Minister of Tourism and Recreation assure this House that he will make an announcement before the end of this month about awarding the full amount of the application for Wintario capital funding for at least the recreational portion of that school?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the member for Port Arthur joins the distinguished member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) in showing some interest in the Fourway Public School.

Mr. Martel: The absent member for Fort William.

Mr. Foulds: Where is he?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: He is here quite frequently. He is here all the time and he has shown a great deal of leadership, enthusiasm and enterprise in making sure that school is going to get the funding it requires.

With respect to the Minister of Education copping out, that certainly is not the case at all. If the honourable member has any further questions, he might want to redirect them to the Minister of Education.

As far as the recreational aspect of grants going to that school is concerned, yes, I fully intend before this session is over to make some announcement, which I am sure will once again

indicate our government's contribution to the recreational field.

Mr. Foulds: Can the minister be a little bit more specific? Can he tell us whether he will give approval for the full Wintario funding to that particular project, in view of the fact that the Ministry of Education deliberately underfunded the school? That is the school, as the minister will remember, which a grand jury panel indicated was in an unsafe and totally unsatisfactory condition, being a fire hazard and a health hazard with rats running around. That is the school for which those parents have been fighting for 12 years, long before the member for Fort William was elected to this place.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister give us the assurance that he will at least fund the full amount of the full recreational component of that school?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Of course, I cannot respond in detail to the actions taken by the Ministry of Education, but I can tell the member that if the record for that school is anywhere close to what it is across the province, then the Minister of Education has done exactly what she should have done. If the member wants to redirect the question, he may do so.

Mr. Foulds: She has like blazes. Just take care of your portion.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As I told the member before, the member for Fort William has talked to me on many occasions about this, and before this session is over we will be making the kinds of grants that will solve the problem at this school.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment in regard to International Minerals and Chemical Corp. in Dunnville, which closes next month knocking 168 members out of work. This is a serious issue for my riding, and I do not want my people out of work. However, another problem, which the company did not tell us about, is that there are concentrations of radiation in the 100 acres of waste-settling lagoons behind the plant.

What is the ministry going to do about that? Is it going to have the company leave without cleaning it up? Will it affect our drinking water supply? Could that 100 acres ever be used for future development, or is the area ruined and will we have left on our hands another radioactive

legacy which will have to be isolated and managed for the next several decades?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I would have to check with the staff to see what the levels of radiation are in the particular area the honourable member is speaking of. I will be most happy to determine the information he is seeking and get back to him. I have taken note of his question and I will report back on that.

Mr. G. I. Miller: IMC extracts phosphate fertilizer from calcium phosphate rock brought in from Florida. The rock has trace amounts of uranium. As it decays in the lagoons, the uranium produces radium and radon gas, according to a ministry official, Mr. John Vogt of the west central region office.

Has the minister had the company inform the workers that they may have been exposed to a slight amount of radiation? Have there been any radioactive hot spots found in the plant itself and will the lagoons pose a threat of contamination to the Rock Point Provincial Park, which the lagoon sits adjacent to? What has the impact been to the surrounding community over the many years the plant has been in operation, considering there has been an abnormally high rate of Hodgkins' disease in Dunnville—two deaths a year in a town of 10,000—when the normal rate is one death a year in 100,000 through Hodgkins' disease?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I thank the honourable member for the supplementary. Normally, I am advised by my staff of anything even closely resembling what the member refers to as a hot spot. Before I indicate to him that I doubt there is a problem in that respect, I will check with the staff to be absolutely certain and report back to him on the questions he has raised.

STRIKEBREAKING LEGISLATION

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware of ads running in the Toronto papers which read: "Students: Packaging work available immediately in cosmetic industry at two locations. Apply in person. Schwartzkopf Ltd. Rate \$3.85 an hour"? Is the minister aware that some 75 workers, most of them women, most of them making about \$4.25 an hour, are on strike in that plant for a second contract and these are the replacements? Does the minister agree with this kind of use of students? Is this part of our youth employment program? What is he willing to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, first, I am quite aware of the circumstances and I must admit they concern me. This strike began only

recently, on May 29. Prior to strike action, a mediator was involved in the dispute and a memorandum of settlement was signed; however, the membership voted against it.

In Ontario, in common with virtually every other jurisdiction in the United States and Canada, there is no prohibition on an employer from operating during the course of a legal lockout or strike. It is up to the individual employer to determine whether he wishes to operate the facilities and, subject to compliance with the law, the means by which he will do so.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, the minister will know the offer they turned down is \$4.25 an hour for the majority of the workers. I presume he is also aware that Schwartzkopf makes top-of-the-line cosmetics while it pays these bottom-of-the-line wages. In my riding in the last year on picket lines two people have been run down. There was Mr. Claude Dougdeen, who was killed last year, and last night on this picket line a woman was hit by a car. Is it not time the minister brought in anti-scab legislation to protect workers on picket lines in this province?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, there are provisions in the Labour Relations Act to prohibit interference with lawful trade union activity. Further amendments were passed in this Legislature a year ago, in 1983, to prohibit professional strikebreaking activity. The legislation also forbade certain defined forms of strike-related misconduct. I have no plans at present to go beyond those present provisions.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister will recall that I raised this issue during the last estimates of the Ministry of Labour and asked him to investigate the situation in Quebec. They do have such legislation there and it has eliminated a great number of problems.

I was under the impression then that the minister was going to review that legislation and, at one time or another, get back to myself or members of the House. If he has not had the opportunity to do so, would he be willing to give me a commitment now that he will review the legislation in Quebec as to whether it has affected the ongoing operations of business? Will he give me a commitment as to whether it has made labour relations in Quebec substantially better than they are here?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I have done some review of the legislation; it has not been an extensive review, I must admit, because of other priorities.

The honourable member indicated that I promised to get back to him. Actually, I sent to the chairman of the committee, and fully expected he would send to all other members of the committee, a document about that thick which responded to all the various questions raised during the estimates. Has the member received that yet? Has he read it yet?

Mr. Mancini: Yes.

INDIAN BAND AGREEMENT

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development with regard to the moral responsibility of this province in resolving a matter that has been allowed to drag on for some 14 years. It is in regard to the mercury pollution of the English-Wabigoon river system, and the damage inflicted on the Grassy Narrows Indian band.

He is no doubt aware that it is now six months since one of the companies responsible, Great Lakes Forest Products, wrote to the Ontario Indian commission stating that it is refusing to make any offer to the band even though it has a commitment to settle. It is apparently refusing because it claims it is actively pursuing the matter of health claims with the government.

Can the minister confirm this? Can he tell us the nature of these discussions with the Indian band concerned?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the honourable member for asking the question because I would like to clarify exactly the two matters that are going on in tandem.

First of all, our government contracted in 1978 with each of the Whitedog band and the Grassy Narrows band to enter into an economic and social development agreement. Last December I signed the agreement with the Whitedog band and last month, along with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), I met with the Grassy Narrows band.

As for the dispute between Great Lakes Forest Products and Reed and the two bands, I represented the province at the last tripartite meeting in November. The tripartite process also requires the Indian first nations—the four treaty organizations—and the federal government to attend. At the tripartite meeting we split off and met with Great Lakes Forest Products as well.

At that meeting the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable John Munro, indicated he was going to do something by going to cabinet to force the issue; in other words, force the settlement. To date, I

am not aware that he has been able to do anything in that regard. I indicated to both Mr. Munro and the companies that we should try once more to bring together the governments and the companies to clear away any problems so they could place a legitimate offer on the table.

Mr. Wildman: Great Lakes is stonewalling.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I am trying to explain.

Mr. Wildman: I did not say the minister is stonewalling; Great Lakes is.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The agreement was that I would be responsible for bringing the president of Great Lakes Forest Products to a meeting and Mr. Munro would be responsible for bringing the president of Reed Ltd. to the meeting. I tried on at least a dozen occasions to ask Mr. Munro when that would happen. He has not yet indicated to me when he can convene that meeting, with all four of us there, so we can get a legitimate offer on the table.

Further, we requested a tripartite meeting to take place in May 1984. Since Mr. Munro seems to be preoccupied with other matters, we have had to put off the tripartite meeting until July. That is the reason for the particular malaise with respect to progressing with the resolution of this matter.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: On May 25, I put an oral question to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes), and two weeks ago I was advised there would be an answer forthcoming. On April 24, I put a written question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz). I am still waiting for answers from both. I wonder if you could use your good offices, since the rules are being violated, particularly with respect to the written answer, to obtain answers for me.

Mr. Speaker: As you know, that is beyond my authority, but I am sure the ministers involved have taken very close note of your remarks and will govern themselves accordingly.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I asked a question of the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) on April 30. At that time he said he would get back to me with an answer. Since that time the question has cost Ontario \$5,000. I wonder whether he should not be doing something about it.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the minister has taken note and will reply quickly.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I asked the Minister of Energy two

questions, neither of which he has answered. One related to one of his constituents and the other had to do with the battery backup system for a shutdown at a nuclear plant. I hope the minister will see fit to answer me before we rise. His constituent needs his help.

PETITIONS

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member representing the constituency of High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko), I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas women in Ontario still earn only 60 per cent of the wages of men; whereas women are still concentrated in a very small number of occupations; and whereas unanimous approval of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value was expressed in the Ontario Legislature in October 1983,

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend Bill 141 to include equal pay for work of equal value and to introduce mandatory affirmative action."

3:10 p.m.

FAMILY BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a group in Ottawa called Women for Justice and 1,200 signatories, I table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislature as follows:

"The petition of the undersigned residents of Ontario who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable Legislature will therefore provide a remedy, humbly sheweth:

"That whereas women in the province of Ontario, as evidenced in the city of Ottawa, are being subjected to unnecessary harassment and unwarranted financial and social hardship by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in its arbitrary interpretation of regulation 424/82 (section 5(b)) of the Family Benefits Act (this section states that single women aged 60 to 64, sole-support parents and wives of institutional-

ized old age security recipients are not eligible for family benefits assistance if they are 'not living as a single person');

"That whereas the interpretation of the section of the act presently being used by the ministry is unfair in that it automatically assumes that the 'man in the house' is willing or able to assume financial support for the woman and her children;

"That whereas at present there is no protection under Canadian law to ensure financial support for women and children in such situations, which often prove to be temporary rather than permanent; and

"That whereas the present interpretation and application of regulation 424/82 (section 5(b)) of the Family Benefits Act by the ministry is inconsistent with the intent of the Children's Law Reform Act, the Family Law Reform Act and the Child Welfare Act, which first and foremost considers the wellbeing of the children involved;

"Therefore, your petitioners humbly pray that this Legislature immediately direct the government of Ontario to investigate and review its related policy in this matter and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that women and children receive fair, unbiased and nondiscriminatory treatment in both determining eligibility for family benefits assistance and in reviewing cases which come before the ministry for reassessment."

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Barlow from the standing committee on resources development reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Natural Resources be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Ministry administration program, \$54,962,400; lands and waters program, \$114,408,000; outdoor recreation program, \$76,463,200; resource products program, \$166,614,000; resource experience program, \$9,528,900.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I could make a few comments on what has just been presented.

Mr. Speaker: No. There is no question before the House.

Mr. Laughren: There is a lot I would like to say.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure there is.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Sheppard from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr13, An Act respecting the Scandinavian-Canadian Centre.

Your committee would recommend that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr13, An Act respecting the Scandinavian-Canadian Centre.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

GRAIN ELEVATOR STORAGE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Swart moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 94, An Act to amend the Grain Elevator Storage Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the bill is intended to ensure that producers retain title until they receive their money for farm produce sold to or through the agency of grain elevator operators. The bill also provides for detailed monthly reports to the chief inspector by grain elevator operators.

This puts into effect the protection to grain producers that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) promised in February 1983 and has never delivered.

LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Ruprecht moved, seconded by Mr. McGuigan, first reading of Bill 95, An Act to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, this bill is intended to prevent landlords from evicting tenants to convert rented residential premises into temporary or hotel accommodation. The Parkdale area especially has been hit hard on this issue, and this bill will redress the imbalance.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Ruprecht moved, seconded by Mr. McGuigan, first reading of Bill 96, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, this bill is intended to prevent conversions of rental residential units to transient living accommodation, which are undertaken primarily to exclude the units from the rent review process.

It would also provide a procedure for setting the rent of a unit that has remained vacant for a year when there is no similar rental unit in the same residential complex.

3:20 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS TENANTS SECURITY ACT

Mr. McClellan moved second reading of Bill 78, An Act to Extend Security of Tenure for Tenants.

Mr. Speaker: I remind the honourable member that he has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation and he may reserve any portion of that time for his windup.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve five minutes for windup at the conclusion of this debate.

I welcome the opportunity to introduce Bill 78 for debate here this afternoon. It is an attempt to put together a package of proposals that will deal with the issue of economic security for tenants—security for tenants against being forced out of their homes as a result of economic pressures.

There are a number of people I need to thank for helping to put this series of proposals together. The Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, Metro Tenants Legal Services, Tenants Hot Line, Parkdale Community Legal Services and Mr. Jack de Klerk have all provided a great deal of very helpful and constructive advice.

While I accept responsibility for the content of this bill, I think it is fair and accurate to say the package of proposals that is before us in this bill represents a consensus on the part of activists in the tenants' rights movement around measures needed to protect tenants against the threat of economic eviction and to establish the rights in law, or statutory rights, to economic security against eviction.

As we start to discuss this issue, we should remember that 37 per cent of Ontario's housing stock is now rental accommodation. That is for all Ontario. There are over one million dwelling units occupied by tenants in Ontario. In our larger cities, we are used to the understanding that over 50 per cent of our citizens are tenants.

That has started to be reflected in some of the political tasks this Legislature has undertaken.

In the 1970s we abolished the tyranny of common law with respect to landlord-tenant relationships and modernized the Landlord and Tenant Act. That was followed up with reforms establishing a form of rent review, now enshrined in the Residential Tenancies Act.

We do not pretend the six points set out in Bill 78 are sufficient of and by themselves to give security of tenure to tenants against the threat of economic eviction or economic action by landlords. It is essential that the whole package of reforms currently being studied by the Thom commission on rent review be brought forward and acted upon by this government.

There are some ideas in Bill 78 that are useful for us to put on the agenda. Quite frankly, I do not think we have had a clear focus on the issue of the right of tenants to economic security. When the Landlord and Tenant Act was revised in the 1970s, we did away with the tyranny of the common law and established certain statutory rights for tenants guaranteeing them the right of protection against arbitrary eviction and the right to due process in law with respect to their relationships with landlords.

We did make some major exemptions, however. We continued to adopt the attitude that if somebody owns a piece of property, he basically has the right to do with it whatever he wants in economic terms. If somebody owns a piece of property, if somebody invests his capital in residential rental accommodation, the Landlord and Tenant Act assumes he does have the right to maximize the profits of his investment, and those rights supersede the rights of his tenants to the secure enjoyment of their own home and to security of tenure in their own home.

I want to say that is a totally inadequate notion of the rights of tenants, and the sooner this government begins to grapple with this reality, the better it will be for the government and the better it will be for the millions of tenants who live in Ontario. How much longer does the government expect that people who are tenants are going to tolerate the perpetuation of basically feudal attitudes with respect to their right to secure enjoyment and occupancy of their own homes?

I am referring specifically to section 107 of the Landlord and Tenant Act, where it is stated that a landlord has the right to demolish or convert residential rental accommodation to other uses. All we have done in the Landlord and Tenant Act is set out the due process by which the tenant may

be evicted. We have accepted in the Landlord and Tenant Act the notion that the right of the landlord to maximize his investment through basic changes to what is somebody's home is entirely legitimate.

What I am trying to put forward in this act is exactly the reverse: To say that tenants have the right to secure enjoyment of their own home and that this right supersedes the right of an investor to maximize his profits if he has chosen to invest his capital in rental residential accommodation.

If somebody has chosen to invest his money in the rental residential market, then he is going to have to accept the rules of the game. Those rules of the game will have to change so those tenants will not be thrown out of their houses because some landlord wants to maximize his profit. Those rules have to be written into our statutes. We are offering the Legislature an opportunity to begin debating that concept this afternoon.

I have tried to deal with a number of aspects of the economic threat. I will start with them in reverse order, first dealing with the question of demolition and conversion control.

We have had a number of debates this year and last year on the issue of demolition control. It has been rightly argued that demolition represents one of the major threats to security for tenants in this province. We know from the report put out in March 1983 by the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto that between 1971 and 1979, in the Metropolitan Toronto area alone, we had a net loss of 13,000 rental units as a result of the combined process of demolition and conversion to nonresidential use.

We know from debates that have taken place on Bill Pr13 and Bill Pr3 that at the present time, as we debate this bill, there are 1,448 units in 50 apartment buildings on the list of applications for demolition permits in the city of Toronto alone. That does not begin to deal with the number of apartment units that are in the conversion process. So far, when we have been debating the issue, we have been talking mainly about the issue of demolition, tearing the buildings down. On the other side of the same alloyed coin is the conversion of affordable housing, mostly older housing, to luxury apartment accommodation.

The net result in both cases has been exactly the same. Tenants, usually those with low incomes and pensioners on fixed incomes, find themselves thrown into the private housing market. We have a crisis of housing supply. The private housing market in the city of Toronto is not able to bring modest one-bedroom accommodation on to the market for less than \$800 a

month. We heard that in testimony before the standing committee on Bill Pr3 from the Canadian Institute of Public Real Estate Companies.

People on low or fixed incomes who are evicted as a result of demolition or conversions have no place to go. Our public social housing supply programs are in a state of disarray. We have a couple of hundred units being added to the supply every year. Far in excess is the number of apartments facing demolition on the city's hit list—1,448. I believe the city of Toronto is getting something like 224 affordable housing units in the current fiscal year.

This is the first issue that has to be addressed, and we have tried to set it out in the bill in a fairly reasonable way, not in a very draconian way. We have tried to empower municipalities with effective demolition and conversion control. If a municipality passes the appropriate bylaw setting out its housing policy and a minimum permissible set of circumstances relating to housing supply and vacancy rates, the municipality will have the power—an effective power, not a sham one—to stop demolition and conversion of affordable housing stock and to protect tenants from being thrown out on to the street and on to a market that simply cannot accommodate them.

3:30 p.m.

There are many communities like the city of Toronto where that is simply the reality. When there is a vacancy rate of 0.7 per cent, we cannot tolerate letting affordable housing stock be demolished for other kinds of commercial uses. Neither can we agree to letting it be converted to luxury or condominium accommodation or the kind of thing the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) was talking about, this never-never world of transient hotel-type accommodation.

We also want to give the cabinet the power to set allowable rent increase maximums in any given fiscal year. We know that rent increases have been too high, from the latest report of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., on rent increases during 1983. The increases in the private market have been too high, both in buildings that were under rent review and buildings that were exempt from it. Increases were well in excess of the rate of inflation.

One of the great ironies is that buildings subject to rent review had an average rent inflation rate of 6.4 per cent. Buildings in the private sector not subject to rent review had an average inflation rate of six per cent. That tells one something about the quality of our rent review system. The average increase granted by

the Residential Tenancy Commission was not just one or two points ahead of the rate of inflation but approximately double, if I understand things correctly.

That speaks again to the urgent need for a whole package of reforms which we hope will come out of the Thom commission and out of the Minister for Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie). It also speaks to the need for this government to take a more aggressive stand in protecting tenants from the kind of superinflationary increases which represent nothing more than gouging on the part of landlords. Many tenants simply cannot withstand them.

I realize my time is running by, so let me quickly run through the other things we hope to accomplish through the bill we are introducing here today.

We want limits on one of the most preposterous ripoffs that is taking place. That is the kind of cost pass-throughs for capital expenditures in the guise of repairs that are currently authorized under residential rent review. We want tenants to have a real and meaningful say in the kind of capital expenditures they are required to bear in the form of rent increases. We are saying that repairs should not be passed through on rents until the tenants have had an opportunity to review the proposals and to formally approve them.

We want an end to the exemptions in the Residential Tenancies Act, which makes absolutely no sense, particularly for buildings that are now almost 10 years old. We want tenants to be given the right of first refusal, if they are evicted, to purchase the property in the case of impending eviction as a result of a proposed sale, demolition or conversion to another use. We want financial compensation for tenants who ultimately may have to vacate their apartment or other accommodation they are renting.

I think that very clearly establishes the principle that the rights of a tenant must have priority. Their rights to security of tenure and protection against economic eviction should have a genuine priority over the right of landlords to maximize profits as a result of their investing in residential rental accommodation.

I have dealt with the financial compensation provision last and rather cursorily, but I think it is a very important notion. We believe tenants have a stake in their own house and that any landlord who is granted the right to dispossess them by virtue of privileges that are enshrined in law has to make a generous financial compensation in recognition of the tenant's prior right. We hope

that kind of dispossession would become increasingly rare and we think other provisions of Bill 78 would ensure that it did become increasingly rare.

I urge the minister and the government to permit this bill to come to a vote and, indeed, to be passed so we can send it out to committee for further study. I want to stress that it is time to take the next step in the extension of tenants' rights. The kinds of steps we took in the 1970s were important, but they did not go far enough in abolishing what was essentially a feudal relationship; and the minister will agree that the common law relationships that governed landlords and tenants from time immemorial were essentially feudal relationships.

We dealt with a part of those feudal relationships, but we have not really come to grips with a very fundamental question: Does a person have a right to secure occupation of his own house if he is a tenant or does he not? Do the rights of investors to maximize profits because they have invested their money in residential rental accommodation supersede the rights of tenants?

We have not really confronted this issue yet; we have not had to as a society because we have not had a majority of people who were tenants. It has always been within the realizable dream of many Canadians, at least, to own a home, and tenancy was something you simply passed through as you were accumulating your savings and waiting to make the down payment on your first house. Those days are gone; I think they are gone forever and I think the minister, at least, knows that.

Many people will be tenants for all their lives. They will raise their families as tenants, they will retire as tenants and they will be tenants. They are as entitled as home owners are, if they meet their financial obligations, to be guaranteed security of tenure. If you pay your bills you should be guaranteed security of tenure, and it should be as simple as that. Nobody should be able to come along and throw you out of your house because he owns the deed to the land. If you are meeting your financial obligations, nobody really should be able to come along and throw you on to the street.

That is the basic principle of the guts of this bill, and I think the government is going to have to confront this situation. Whether it wants to listen to me or not is really quite irrelevant. The reality is that in our large cities the majority of people are tenants and the majority of people will always be tenants. They will insist on protection under law; they will not allow government to

ignore this issue any more than they allowed government in 1975 to ignore the issue of rent control.

They will force the government to act whether it wants to or not, as they forced it to act on rent control. The sooner the government tries to put its mind to these questions the better; the sooner this Legislature tries to grapple with the very complex issues that are set out in this bill the better.

I hope we can have a good debate and that the bill will pass this afternoon so the debate can continue in committee. We can then have a serious discussion on some of these issues and we can bring people forward to help us try to work out ways and means of guaranteeing the rights of tenants to the secure enjoyment of their own homes. I urge all members to support this bill.

I do not know whether I have used up all my time. I think I have.

Mr. Williams: Look at the clock.

Mr. McClellan: I appreciate the opportunity to introduce this topic and I look forward to the debate.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, on a point of clarification: The member for Bellwoods asked whether he had used up all his time, and I notice that the clock was flashing and so forth. He indicated earlier that he wanted to have five minutes left. As a result of that, did they count only 15 minutes from when he started or did they actually count 20 minutes?

The Deputy Speaker: The clock ran the full 20 minutes.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the debate this afternoon on Bill 78. First and foremost, I want to say with all sincerity that the member for Bellwoods has stayed true to form in expressing the great concerns he has about the rights and privileges of tenants in this province. There is no question at all he is being consistent in the concern he has expressed over the years about this extremely important social issue.

While I have put his concerns forward, at the same time and for the record I want to make it abundantly clear that his concerns are no greater than those of this government. He has talked about feudal attitudes prevailing, but I suggest that is an anachronism. Feudal attitudes from all sides of this House towards the rights and privileges of tenants and landlords have long since disappeared.

We have one basic difference in sharing concerns about tenants. That was expressed in the opening comments of the member for Bellwoods when he suggested his bill was designed to represent a consensus among activist tenants within Metropolitan Toronto. There is no question there is a large activist group of tenants within Metro Toronto which does a useful service in representing those tenants.

The divergence of opinion rests in the fact that the member for Bellwoods concentrates solely on the rights and needs of tenants. This government shares those concerns and provides in a legislative fashion protection for the rights of tenants and improves upon them where it sees the need. We also must bear in mind the other side of the equation, however, which is to ensure that the rights and privileges that the people who own the land as landlords have enjoyed in this free and democratic society are not taken away from them.

We have to balance the equation in a little more responsible fashion. It is not that the member for Bellwoods is being irresponsible, but he only deals with one aspect of the issue. To make it clear that this government has no less a concern with rights of tenants, I will simply point out the record of the government in this regard.

As the member for Bellwoods pointed out, in 1969 dramatic changes came about when the government took legislative initiatives that ensured that tenants were no longer limited to the common law positions of landlord and tenant. While the member characterized those common law rights as tyrannical in nature, it might be better to characterize them as outdated.

This government took the initiative in 1969 to enact significant new legislation that substantially improved the position of tenants and equalized the rights and privileges that existed, or rather failed to exist, prior thereto between landlords and tenants. Specifically, the government revised the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Two main features came out of that revision. On the one hand, a landlord could only regain possession of a unit under the authority of a court writ of possession, pursuant to a court order to evict. On the other side of the coin, and again providing much stronger legal clout for the tenant, the act gave the court the authority to refuse an order to evict where the tenant had attempted to enforce his legal rights and was not able to do so or where the landlord was found to be in breach of his legal obligations. The law was so amended to identify clearly the rights of tenants that heretofore might have been ignored

or had remained limited to the common law provisions of the day.

The government then moved further in this field to provide even stronger protection for tenants in 1975 with the enactment of the Residential Premises Rent Review Act. All members of this Legislature participated at that time in ensuring that the rights of tenants were enhanced.

I can perhaps point out one or two ways in which this was accomplished. The grounds on which a landlord could seek eviction were much restricted. The basis on which a landlord was seeking eviction had to be specifically spelled out before the courts would consider that this could take place.

Most recently, security of tenure for tenants was further strengthened with the enactment of the Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act in 1983. I might say, in a modest fashion, I and my colleague the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) played no small part in bringing about the enactment of that legislation.

It protected the rights of tenants that were at risk at that time, based on the complex conveying schemes that had been developed by some landlords to circumvent the condominium legislation that exists in our province today. They tried to bring about ownership of units within rental apartment buildings, using the occupancy agreement scheme to accomplish that end purpose.

At that time, the member for Lakeshore and myself approached the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Through their quick response, we brought forward the appropriate legislation to protect the rights of tenants caught in that situation.

I point out that the legislation dealt with an apartment building in my own riding at 70 Old Sheppard Avenue. Through the efforts of Mary McBride, Mrs. Norma Wordingham and other interested parties who came to me in 1980, I was able to assist them to ensure they had security of tenure.

That is another example of how this government has responded to the needs and concerns of tenants and has given them a better shake, so to speak, in a landlord-tenant situation.

I might point out some interesting statistics with regard to the next major step forward that we took. That was moving into the residential rent review situation so that we have the finest residential tenancy laws anywhere today. It

might be interesting to substantiate how well those laws are working.

In 1983-84 the average rent increase approved by the Residential Tenancy Commission was 10.6 per cent. They had been running as high as 14.2 per cent in 1982-83. While most landlords appeared to be asking for something in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent or more, the commission responded in a responsible way by imposing increases limited to these averaging amounts.

It is interesting to note as well that fewer landlords appear to be going to rent review these days. They are accepting the six per cent allowance. In the 1983-84 period, the commission received less than half the number of applications it did in 1982-83. Only 2,000-odd applications were received in the past period compared to more than 5,400 applications in 1982-83. It is apparent that the protection of tenants is being ensured under rent review legislation, along with the companion landlord and tenant legislation.

I would like to dwell further on the matter, but I would only say in closing that the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) will undoubtedly be speaking of his resolution about the rights of property under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which I think the members from this party and his party endorse as a right and a privilege.

3:50 p.m.

This legislation before us today would tend to distort that right that is being asked for in the amendment to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That is why we have to oppose this legislation today. We consider there has to be a continuing balance of rights between tenants and landlords so that the principles of fundamental justice set out in the member's resolution regarding the Charter of Rights are preserved.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Waterloo North.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see you got my riding right.

The member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) has referred to my property rights resolution. I am glad he has referred to it and I hope he will support it when I get the opportunity to present it. As he knows, we have to wait for our opportunity as far as the ballot is concerned, and mine does not come up for a while. I imagine when it comes up he will support it with all the strength and force of speech he can mount.

We have no difficulty with supporting this bill. We have a number of concerns with it, but I will

be supporting the private member's bill, as the member for Bellwoods has indicated. I am sure a number of members of my caucus will also be supporting it.

I was glad to see the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations in the House earlier. I notice he left a few minutes ago when the member for Oriole started to speak, but at least he did show enough interest to be in the House for part of the time. That is something that does not always happen on the part of the cabinet ministers, so I want to take this opportunity to single out that minister and commend him for at least being here when the bill was introduced.

It is particularly noteworthy and important for me, being the critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing, because we seldom see the ghost minister of that ministry. I should not say too much, because I expect he will be in estimates tonight. He is never in the House for legislation and never in committee for legislation, so I did want to commend the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations for his presence earlier.

Mr. Philip: He just walked out.

Mr. Epp: No, he walked out when the member for Oriole started to speak and he has not had a chance to come back here, but I notice his books are still on the desk, so perhaps he will come back.

As we have indicated in times past with respect to similar pieces of legislation, we believe tenants who are often discriminated against by some of the legislation introduced in this House need a greater security of tenure. To that extent, we will be supporting this bill. We wish the bill had gone further, that it had incorporated some of the important principles my colleague introduced in Bill 53.

One aspect we cannot support is to turn our backs on the commitment this Legislature made to people who have built units since January 1, 1976. At that time, they were promised that if they were to build additional units, the new units would not come under rent review. I think it is an error in judgement, all of a sudden six or eight years later, to turn our backs on that and say that promise was good enough in 1976 but it is not good enough today.

How can we keep faith with people if today we tell those people we are going to make a promise, but tomorrow, if it is convenient, we are going to abrogate that commitment? I do not accept that approach and I hope nobody in this Legislature accepts that kind of approach.

One of things I wish this bill had dealt with—and it has missed a number of things—is the

interest on deposits. As members know, tenants make a deposit for the last month's rent. Interest rates are running at about 12, 13 or 14 per cent—the prime was 12 per cent the last time I read the chart—and yet they get only six per cent on their deposits. Some greater amount, equal to the prime rate as it now stands, would be much more convenient and certainly more fair. I wish this bill had addressed that point.

The principle of a register would have been important had it been included in the bill, as it should be. It would let people know who occupied a unit in previous months and the amount of rent paid. I only hope the Thom commission, which is addressing some of these matters, gets on its horse and gets its hearings over with, so it can come forth with some substantial and meaningful recommendations. This is something we in our caucus are looking for.

Another matter, which I am sure my colleague the member for Parkdale is going to address, has to do with evictions. People are evicted for a number of reasons from various units: because the owners want to demolish the building they are in, because they want to convert it to condominiums, because they want to do substantial renovations, or whatever is the case. I think there has to be greater protection for tenants who have to move to other units.

It becomes particularly important when people cannot find a suitable unit. I want to draw the members' attention to this. It is why rent review is becoming increasingly important. It has been important for 10 years, but it is becoming even more important because of the lack of government action to try to clear up the low vacancy rate. I want to cite some examples of the vacancy rate statistics as given by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. They include all apartment buildings with six or more units. I recognize that buildings with five or fewer units are not included in this, but that does not make a substantial difference to the statistics.

In April 1984 there was a vacancy rate in Hamilton of 0.9 per cent. The figures for other cities were as follows: Kitchener, 0.7 per cent; London, 2.4 per cent; Oshawa, 1.5 per cent; Ottawa-Hull, which these statistics take into consideration, 0.3 per cent; St. Catharines, 1 per cent; Sudbury, 0.9 per cent; Thunder Bay, 1.4 per cent; and Toronto, 0.9 per cent. We can go on and on through the various areas.

If we include new completions, or those that have been completed very recently, we may be able to add a couple of units to each area. For

instance, Toronto, rather than being 0.9 per cent, all of a sudden becomes one per cent. We can add one tenth per cent on average because of new completions. Then we will get a figure that is probably a little more accurate. Irrespective of that, we find a vacancy rate of around one per cent, maybe slightly less or slightly more in some areas.

This is where part of the problem lies. People do not have an opportunity to choose where they are going to move to. It is not a matter of moving across the street to another vacant unit. It is sometimes a matter of moving completely out of their jurisdiction or their municipality. Not only do people have no opportunity to move within their immediate area, but also they have to redecorate and pay expensive moving costs. Some of these costs are going to have to be covered.

We support this bill. We wish it had gone further. Irrespective of that, we do not have any difficulty with it.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. It is not only a bill to protect tenants, but also a bill to protect communities. A number of years ago, under pressure of municipal councils, this government accepted the concept that a council of elected representatives and its community had a right to set certain standards and to prevent conversion of rental accommodation to condominiums.

4 p.m.

In so doing, the government accepted the principle that people in the community and their representatives could best make decisions affecting that community, and they could protect themselves from having outsiders come in with the millions of dollars that some of these developers have and change the nature of that community by throwing people out of the community.

When one municipality, the city of Toronto, took this principle to its logical conclusion, stating there are many ways of converting—not just the traditional way of conversion to condominiums but also conversion by demolition—and introduced Bill Pr13, suddenly we were faced with the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg) and the Attorney General stating we could not interfere with the property rights of the owners of those buildings.

If this government thinks it is consistent to interfere with the property rights of those buildings in one instance, why is it so wrong and so immoral in another instance? There is a certain inconsistency in that.

What about the rights of those people who have built those communities? What about the rights of those seniors in Wilson Heights who have built synagogues and churches, who have given their volunteer time and hard-earned money to build those kinds of institutions that make a community worth while? Do they not have more rights than some outside developer who wants to come in on a frontal attack with a bulldozer and plough down the housing those people have lived in for so many years?

If one looks at those communities, if one meets with those people—and I have met with many of them and with their lawyers and advisers, people like Sean Goetz-Gadon and so many others who have worked so closely with them over the years—one will see we are not talking about the rights of tenants versus the rights of a businessman landlord in that community.

Invariably what we are talking about is the rights of people in the community versus those of an outsider, namely, a developer who comes in, buys up a building for the cheapest price he can get and then bulldozes it down to create something that is going to make a large profit for him.

We are talking about the rights of a community such as Metropolitan Toronto to stop the ghettoizing of this community with all the problems that come from ghettos. Ghettos mean the rich will live in one part of the community and the poor and the middle class will live in another.

Unless we come to grips with the right of a community to stop that kind of thing, we are talking about a community that is divided along ghetto lines. It has happened in jurisdictions in Europe, and it has happened in North America.

We are not talking just about tenants' rights. We are talking about community rights. We are talking about the rights of a local council. We are talking about local autonomy. These are all things to which the Tories like to give lipservice, but when it comes to demonstrating it in a concrete form, they do not follow up.

I would have found the remarks of the member for Oriole somewhat humorous if they had not been so serious. He talked about the great job the Attorney General did in bringing in legislation to protect tenants in those instances where a percentage interest was provided as a way of selling a building or converting it to a phoney condo.

It is very interesting, given his sense of ethics—and he is so pompous about his ethics all the time—that he did not say anything about the

ethics of the Attorney General in stealing my bill word for word.

When I introduced the bill, I told everybody in this House and in press statements that it was an interim bill to solve an immediate problem, namely, the legal problem caused by Madeiros versus Fraleigh, and that we would have to go further than that. It was simply a bill to protect the people who were being evicted in places like 41 Lake Shore Drive, 40 apartments; 22 Allanhurst Drive, 46 apartments; 30 Allanhurst Drive, 59 apartments; 785 Brown's Line, 50 apartments; and several others involving another 150 or so apartments in the lakeshore area.

I said it was simply interim legislation. Then the government plagiarized that bill word for word and said, "This is the end-all and the be-all, and the tenants now can go to court any time they want."

We have seen how tenants can be intimidated. I can tell members about the senior in Lakeshore who finally decided to move after repeatedly having lawyers rapping at her door with eviction notices and so on. She finally said, "I am going to go into government-owned and government-sponsored housing because I cannot put up with the hassles." If that is what this government wants, if the rights of that senior are not important to this House, then members opposite should not vote for this bill; they should not support it.

On the other hand, if the rights of the senior who had lived in that building for more than 20 years are important, so is this bill. I mean her right to remain independent, to remain in a privately owned apartment building in that community and not have to go off prematurely to a seniors building at considerable expense to the taxpayers. Surely her rights are more important than the rights of some outsider who wants to go into a building or who, in this case, uses a loophole in the legislation. The government said when it introduced the Condominium Act it would stop this kind of thing.

I am pleased the member for Waterloo North is in support of the bill. I found his comments about the bill not going far enough rather interesting. He is a member who censures my colleague the member for Bellwoods for not incorporating Bill 53 in his bill.

Bill 53 was introduced by the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri), who must have spent some time with the Attorney General—he probably went to college with him; I do not know. That bill is a mirror copy, word for word, of the one I introduced. The only difference is that

instead of amending the old Planning Act as I did—because mine was introduced some time ago—he amends the new Planning Act. Otherwise it is word for word.

When I went to university, one got an F if he did that kind of thing, if he did not put in his ibids and op cits in giving credit for places where he stole ideas. Worse still, if one stole a sizeable chunk, such as the whole document, one got kicked out of the college. Here they praise people who do that. I thought this House was supposed to be a House of honourable gentlemen.

The member for Waterloo North also says this bill does not go far enough because it does not deal with the issue of buildings built after January 1, 1976. During the minority government in 1977, when the Liberals had an opportunity to include those buildings, they voted against them; they sold out the tenants. Now they have this death-bed kind of conversion on behalf of extending rent review to those buildings occupied after January 1, 1976.

Where were the Liberals when they could have made a difference under the minority government and voted with us? Those buildings then would have come under that legislation, and we would not have needed to include that in this bill by the member for Bellwoods. The member for Waterloo North would not then have had to talk about it.

I am asking that members seriously consider this bill. We are talking about the right to preserve communities. We are talking about the right of seniors to grow old with dignity and to remain independent in their own apartments, in the places where they have lived. We are not talking about interfering with the rights of owners. We are talking about interfering with outsiders who otherwise would have the right to come in and destroy a community. I ask that all members support this bill.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate today. I think it goes without saying that Bill 78 is without a doubt one of the most highly charged political pieces of legislation we have before us. I say that fully cognizant of the fact that it expands on five or six very major and basic tenants' rights. However, the honourable member who proposes it is equally well aware, as are all members of this House, that in an issue as highly charged and as sensitive as this one there is not simply one side.

I, like my friend the member for Oriole, have no difficulty with the member bringing forth such a piece of legislation. It lays out some very

exacting conditions for change, some very exacting new protections of what he calls economic tenure for tenants. But equally I do not think he would want to suggest to this House that in the fullness of time it is his firm belief an issue of this complexity has only one side.

Trying to find the balance is what legislative opportunity in a parliament is all about. I realize we have something of an adversarial system where there are people on a variety of sides of the issue. My respect for the member for Bellwoods is not diminished by the fact that he comes forth with a very strong position in support of one side, although it might have been more appropriate for him to have done that in the form of a resolution rather than a bill. He also knows that bringing forward a bill with no regard whatsoever for the other side of the issue will not likely have the same measure of success that a resolution might.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Send it out to committee and bring in the other side.

Mr. Robinson: It is not the responsibility of the government to send it out to committee and bring in the other side. The legislation is supposed to bring in the other side. The legislation is supposed to—

Mr. R.F. Johnston: We do that all the time with the government's one-sided bills. This one can do it the other way.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Robinson: In addition to the fact that the bill obviously provides no balance between the interests of the parties in this matter, it further complicates the already sometimes strained relationship between landlords and tenants. It creates new opportunities to enhance that conflict through mechanisms which in many instances, rather than establishing new ways of resolving disputes, simply set up new ways of airing disputes and bringing them to the forefront.

It also goes some distance to diminishing further economic incentive to put new housing stock on the market. We have to be cognizant that is a very real part of the issue as well. It is not enough to say tenants' rights are paramount. The member for Bellwoods concluded his remarks by asking whether the rights of landlords will always supersede the rights of tenants. I do not look at it as being a question of the supremacy of one over the other.

In the past number of years, and its record is obvious, the government, with goodwill from all sides of the House, has gone a great distance to maintain and achieve a new balance in this kind of relationship. That very delicate balance, from

a fulcrum that is always shifting, would be seriously and singularly eroded by the conditions of Bill 178 in hand and nothing else.

Striking the balance in that relationship is a difficult task. It is a relationship that, through changes and new provisions, we have been trying very hard to prevent from taking on more of an adversarial role, characterized perhaps by mutual suspicion or in some cases getting all the way down to acrimony and even more unpleasant things than that.

There are groups and individuals who argue there is no balance in the system between the rights of landlords and tenants, but not everyone who approaches members of this House would say the balance is solely in the hands of the landlords. There are those among landlords, and there is no reason to deny they exist, who consider that the government's and the House's attempts and movements towards bringing in greater protection for tenants over a long period of time in a great variety of areas are creating an economic imbalance and hardship on the other end.

No one accepts either of the poles. No one in this House accepts that there can be instant solutions to the problems. It comes down to the matter of being able to express goodwill and to find that very sensitive centre point.

The bill also does nothing to find new ways to encourage landlords to participate with their tenants. Tenants' rights are very popular and very important, particularly in the metropolitan areas as we know them today, but they are hardly new. A friend of mine who died a number of years ago was a tenants' activist in Scarborough before it was popular to have anything to do with tenants' rights. It was through his efforts almost exclusively, going all the way to the Supreme Court of Ontario, that he secured for tenants the absolute right and privilege not to face any possibility or consequence of eviction if they involved themselves in tenants' organizations. He stood in the vanguard of that.

He stood evicted until the Supreme Court overturned his landlord's decision, and he was one of the true pioneers. He is now gone, but he also recognized that there had to be a balance. There have to be people working on both sides of the issue to provide a society where free enterprise can prosper as well as individuals, who now, as the member for Bellwoods says, can count upon tenancy as a way of life for a considerable number of years, if not through their lifespan.

It is also difficult to support the bill when one recognizes that the low vacancy rate is not prejudiced and balanced only on considerations of interest rates and other economic pressures. It is fair to say that rent control in Ontario has gone some considerable distance, good, bad or indifferent, in turning some potential capital investment away from the construction of new apartment units.

I will not insult the intelligence of my friend the member for Bellwoods by going through the pyramiding of what happens when new rental accommodation is built, how people move from one to the other and eventually there is a levelling off at the bottom. The bottom is always rising. The lowest level of accommodation is always rising, although not necessarily in leaps and bounds. However, if we prevent, discourage and provide considerable disincentive to any sort of new rental accommodation being provided, we will remain with exactly the same kind and amount of rental accommodation stock we now have. By the natural process of the situation, some of it will deteriorate. That is part of the situation we find before us today.

There is also a school of thought that says a lot of people would not necessarily want to have members of the third party as their landlords. I suppose we could have some fun and point to Mr. Spencer, who is a member of that party. For the record, he was the one who wanted to have more of an increase than rent review allowed. I know he applied for a hearing. Was it 99 per cent more he wanted?

Mr. McClellan: There are certain landlords we do not want as members of the third party.

Mr. Robinson: I see. I am sure their clientele, their broader philosophical constituency—

Mr. McClellan: We all have our crosses to bear.

Mr. Robinson: We do indeed. We will not look around to see where they may be at any point.

Mr. Ruston: You have Yuri over there. You have John.

Mr. Robinson: I hear my friend the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston). I see where he is pointing, and I do not know who is down there right now. I see my friend the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard). I am sure he is not speaking about my friend the member for Northumberland, in any event.

The point is that even among those who would strive to provide in a real and philosophical way that measure of service to a greater constituency,

there are those from within who would find some way to satisfy the needs of their free-enterprise spirit. That goes to show that free enterprise, no matter where one looks, is still very viable.

There is the section of Bill 78, offered by the member for Bellwoods, that allows the right of first refusal for purchase. That was probably developed as a result of that particular landlord who, recognizing that a rent increase of that amount might not be entirely saleable or fair in terms of his own building, went back and offered to sell the building. Unlike what the bill provides, he offered to sell it for a considerably greater amount a short time after he had purchased it for a lesser amount.

I was not going to talk about that. I would not, except that I know the members of the third party would have been discouraged had I not made at least some mention of it.

I have a sensitivity for tenants. Tenants make up a good measure of my riding. Tenants' associations are active and vital. I work with them and support them. I have organized one or two in the past number of years. They work because both sides are prepared to work.

If it comes down to a point, either legislatively, on the street or in the halls of an apartment building, where there cannot be an attitude of equity and fairness between one party and the other, then the system we have before us, which we have finely tuned and balanced over nearly 10 years now, will not only have been for naught but the future of landlord and tenant negotiations and dealings will also be in even more dire straits in the future.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support Bill 78 to establish security of tenure for tenants. However, it is unfortunate that we have to introduce various bills on a piecemeal basis to establish rights for tenants.

We were given assurances in 1982, as members know, by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, that the Thom commission he established would address itself to the major loopholes in the Landlord and Tenant Act. We are still waiting today, in 1984, for a comprehensive report. The latest we have been given is some sort of promise that, indeed, the Thom commission will probably report this year, but we will not hold our breath.

Most of us who support this legislation and support tenants' rights appeared before the Thom commission and expected the commission's report would address the main concern of tenants, namely, fairness and justice for those

who rent. The government members speak today of balancing the rights of landlords and the rights of tenants, but what comes through loud and clear is that the majority of rights are falling on one side of the track and there is little in which to take comfort for tenants on the other side.

We believe we should have inalienable rights for tenants and they should be enshrined without ever hearing a rumour on the government side that it will reduce the six per cent rent control and will take away, day by day, some of the rights fought for so justly and for so long that guarantee security of tenure for tenants.

There should be one inalienable right for tenants and that is the six per cent ceiling on their rents. A rent registry is necessary because it is estimated by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations that even today rents of 70,000 units are raised illegally each year. That speaks to the problem of the six per cent ceiling and to the necessity of guaranteeing that these rights, and especially this right of a six per cent ceiling, not be whittled away.

Another very important right is the right tenants should have against anyone who wants to demolish their homes. As the member for Bellwoods has indicated, we are losing or have lost at least 1,400 units to the demolition ball in the city of Toronto. When we are looking at the larger picture of why and how demolitions take place, we find the statistics are much higher. The statistics are that we are losing 13,000 units to conversions to nonresidential use and also, of course, to demolitions.

This is an important item because the right must be given to every municipality to ensure that tenants who pay their rents and who have established a home in their apartments for a long time have a right to not be kicked out by someone who suddenly comes in and purchases the building.

There is another inalienable right and that is the right of tenants to speak out against conversions. Members will realize that I introduced Bill 51 and Bill 52 in 1983. Our own area of Parkdale has been severely affected by changing some of the apartment units to accommodations of a much more luxurious type, specifically hotel-like accommodation.

Bill 51 and Bill 52, as I introduced them, sought to stop such practices. We know there are many landlords who are good landlords, but—and this is why this specific bill addresses one of the major problems—there are also some landlords who are trying to gouge and some who are not

very conscientious in exercising their prerogative to establish good relations with tenants.

On Jameson Avenue in Parkdale, for example, we have had hundreds of units converted to luxury accommodation, or at least to hotel-like accommodation. Tenants had no rights and that is why these piecemeal bills have to be brought before the minister almost on a daily basis, in order to maintain some of these rights. That is why hundreds of tenants were literally thrown out onto the street because some person decided he wanted to make a higher profit and was not very much concerned about the whole question of maintaining a great and stable community.

The repercussions are very grave for a community that is suddenly faced with demolitions and conversions. The repercussions are great because they affect everyone in the community. They affect the garbage pickup. They affect the amount of noise. A greater number of cars come into the area. A different clientele comes in because hotel accommodations are rented to people who do not have a long-term commitment to the community. They affect children. Some of the schools will be empty because good tenants with families have moved out to make room for those who come in for only a few weeks.

This legislation is good, but when it goes before committee, as I hope will be the case in this specific instance, I also hope my amendments will be incorporated, because they speak as well to the security of tenure for tenants.

In short, we will support Bill 78 because it addresses itself to one of the major problems for tenants, namely, the right to a secure home.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak. I have six minutes, do I, even though the last member did not use all his time?

The Acting Speaker: A little less now.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you. Five and counting.

I am pleased to stand up and support Bill 78, and I am sure most members of the House, in spite of a couple of the speeches we have heard from the other side, will want to do so as well in view of the principles involved in the bill and in order to get it out to committee. There we can bring in the other side, as the member for Oriole and the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson) suggested, and give the impoverished landlords of Ontario a chance to come in and talk about the need to have property rights at least balanced with human rights.

Let us give them that opportunity. Let us not have the member for Bellwoods bring just one side of the issue here, according to which the basic human right to secure shelter should somehow transcend the rights of somebody who wants to invest in property to make money. Please let the other side have an opportunity to make those arguments of balance in committee. I beg members to allow this to go out to committee and not let it be held up here at this time.

The kinds of things we have heard today have made me think that members opposite must have been off looking at the Magna Carta, which is now coming across the waters to us, and they probably believe it is the be-all and end-all of the expression of the need for basic tenants' rights and the removal of a feudal system.

Mr. McClellan: No scottage without lottage.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Scottage without lottage? I will ask you about that later.

I was delighted to hear that the members of the Liberal Party support this legislation, although they feel, of course, as we know from their voting in the past, that tenants who spend \$750 a month on rent should not be covered by rent review. We heard reiterated today that there should be no end to the free profiteering on buildings built after 1976, some of them eight years old now, and that the balance would be improper if we were to say to those landlords at this point, "Maybe you should come under rent control."

I am disappointed that there was no acceptance of those ideas by my friends in the Liberal Party, but at least they support the motion and want it to go out to committee so their progressive amendments can be brought into this and the bill can be expanded.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking very facetiously, as I am sure you have understood. It would show in Hansard, at any rate; I would not even have to explain that at this point.

What I am trying to get at is that things are still really out of whack in Ontario with respect to basic rights. Property rights, the right to profit from the acquisition and ownership of property, are much stronger in this province than not just the basic right of tenants to have secure housing but the basic right to shelter.

4:30 p.m.

The basic right to shelter is not a right in Ontario; it is a privilege. There are many people in this province who do not have access to shelter. We know that. We have people who are living on the streets. We have people who are living in hostels that we would not consider to be

adequate shelter; they have been living there for years. The last I heard was that there are in excess of 18,000 families and more than 9,000 seniors on waiting lists for Ontario Housing. They do not even have a basic right to shelter.

In bringing in his legislation, the member for Bellwoods is saying there are ways of helping overcome that and making it a right and not just a privilege in society, by taking away some of the rights of landlords or, if you will, by putting some rights into the hands of tenants so they will be able to protect themselves.

It is a myth, part of the old Horatio Alger kind of myth of Canada and the North American society that we can all become millionaires, that we will all have the capacity to own houses. We will not have the capacity to own houses.

Mr. Ruprecht: Spencer showed us how to do it.

Mr. McClellan: Spensieri helped him along.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am sure the member for Yorkview could help, and others as well.

Mr. Williams: He said Spencer, not Spensieri.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The point I am making is that to own a house in a place like Metro Toronto at the moment, one has to earn about \$40,000 a year. We all know the average industrial wage is around \$22,000 a year. A large number of people in this province do not have the capacity to own a house; they will be tenants for the rest of their lives.

Putting aside for a minute the myth that somehow tenancy is a temporary aberration in people's lives and not something that will be their state for the entire period of their lives, let us look at their basic rights to secure shelter. The member for Bellwoods has articulated, and I do not need to repeat, all the means a landlord has of making that tenancy insecure rather than secure.

What he has brought forward are a number of recommendations that would stop landlords from playing games with renovations, where they throw people out on the street; from playing games with demolition so they can make extra profits and take away the basic housing those people should expect to be theirs; from playing games with guaranteeing that people who are in buildings that have been built since 1976 will have some security of tenure and not be forced out because of the rent gouging which is taking place. There are a number of things we should be looking at in terms of means of addressing it.

What we are talking about, I say to the member for Oriole, is the fact that those rights are not

here. He gave a list of progression, some kind of recognition of the political power of tenants. In my riding, tenants are almost in the majority; they must be almost close to that in his own riding at this point, I would think. Inevitably, as the member for Bellwoods has said, there will be some kind of recognition in this House of these rights and that they are not just privileges.

What the member for Bellwoods is suggesting now, in 1984, is that it is time for us to look at the question of basic rights of tenants. What is the balance? Why should the right to profit from property have seniority and greater power in our society than the right to be secure in the place one is living in, whether, as the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) has said, it is a senior citizen, a family benefits mother who cannot afford to live in private housing any more because of the amount of money she is receiving, or whomever it may be?

Now is the time to do it. Let us send this bill to committee. Let us have the kind of debate there that this bill deserves. Let us bring in the landlords of Ontario to tell me and the member for Bellwoods that we are out to lunch on this. Let us at least get the debate going. Let us not live back in the 12th and 13th century with the Magna Carta; that is not enough for the tenants of Ontario.

PAROLE PROCEDURES

Mr. Eves, seconded by Mr. Barlow, moved resolution 26:

That given the Canadian public is growing increasingly concerned about the parole system in Canada, and given the need to maintain public confidence in our system of justice, this House urges the government of Canada to review and reform the Parole Act and to consider increasing the minimum period of time required to be served by an inmate to be eligible for parole or for day parole to one half of the sentence.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I remind the honourable member, having made this motion, you have up to 20 minutes for a presentation and may reserve any portion thereof for final wrapup.

Mr. Eves: Mr. Speaker, about three years ago there was a man by the name of Ralph Power who used to spend a lot of his free time in downtown Toronto. Members of this assembly may well have passed Ralph Power on the streets of Toronto and we probably would not have given him a second glance. We would have absolutely no reason to suspect that Ralph Power was a psychopath who spent his time in downtown

Toronto stalking beautiful women. In all probability, we would not have been able to foretell that a short time later the same Ralph Power would be found not guilty by reason of insanity of the brutal murder of fashion model Sheryl Gardner.

In Kingston about the same time, Duane Edward Taylor raped and murdered April Morrison, who was two years old. While Power and Taylor were venting their own murderous sickness in Ontario, on the other side of the country in British Columbia young children were disappearing. Later, a horrified country learned that Clifford Robert Olson had mercilessly slaughtered 11 children in British Columbia. In Hamilton, in March 1983, a 54-year-old man, whom a judge later described as almost helpless, was kicked and beaten to death by a 20-year-old named John Baddley.

These events are widely separated in terms of time and the places in which they occurred, but they do have a number of things in common. First and foremost, these incidents I refer to all involve brutal and senseless crimes that caused the death of innocent people. Second, all those innocent people fell victim to criminals who had been released from prison before they had served the full sentence imposed on them by the courts. Power and Taylor, for example, were out of jail under mandatory supervision. So was Clifford Olson. Baddley was out on parole.

Incidents of this type, and there are far too many of them reported across the country, have angered Canadians and have led them to question the viability and, in some cases, even the sanity of the procedures we use to handle violent offenders.

Most recently, the case of four-time rapist and murderer Wayne Clifford Borden, who, while on a temporary absence pass from Laval maximum security institution, managed to escape from his unarmed art instructor escort, has served to focus national public concern about all the elements of prison release procedures and the parole system itself.

In Ontario, the release of Richard Stephens on day parole after he had served only 10 months of a three-year sentence for manslaughter has caused considerable public outrage. Many concerned members of the public and, indeed, of this House, question the fairness of, and the degree of safety afforded to the public by, our national parole system.

It is because of incidents of the type I have referred to previously, the perception that such incidents are occurring more frequently through-

out the country and the fact that I share with many of my constituents the view that the national parole system is no longer serving the public interest, that I am seeking the support of the members of this House for the resolution I have placed before it today. I believe this resolution deserves the support of the members.

I hope it will enjoy the support of members of all three political parties for three major reasons.

First, I believe it is imperative that this House send a very strong signal to the citizens of Ontario, our law enforcement and judicial agencies and to the criminals in our society that we in this assembly are not prepared to tolerate revolving-door justice; that we in this House will support whatever measures are necessary to keep the public safe from violent offenders and to ensure the punishments imposed by the courts, through due process of law and having full regard for the rights of the offender, are properly and fully executed.

Second, I believe it is important that the federal government be made to recognize the concern about this issue and that support for parole reform is extensive, broad-based and not likely to dissipate. With all due respect, the federal government's record of rapid response to public concerns in this area has not been a good one. Let us consider, for example, how the federal government has handled the mandatory supervision issue.

4:40 p.m.

The mandatory supervision program was introduced in 1970 and is quite distinct and separate from the parole system. Under the mandatory supervision program, a federal inmate, murderers excepted, is released from prison after serving two thirds of his sentence with time off for good behaviour. The prisoner serves the remaining third of his sentence on the street under the program of mandatory supervision, by law. The National Parole Board, the body best able to assess the risks involved in early release, has absolutely no say in this process except for setting the conditions which must be met during the period of supervision.

As long as the inmate qualified for remission, he qualified for release under the program. Unless he had been classed a dangerous offender, which must have been done at the time of his sentencing, the law requires his release. There is no discretion. This program had the effect of putting some very dangerous people out on the streets. After all, those inmates released under the mandatory supervision program were inmates who were unable to qualify for parole. For

instance, the National Parole Board repeatedly turned down mass-murderer Clifford Olson's request for parole, yet could do nothing to prevent his release under mandatory supervision.

The mandatory supervision program in Canada has been the object of controversy since its introduction in 1970. The Canadian public, if not the Canadian government, had the good sense to recognize that little good could come out of this. They were rightfully suspicious of a program that would put an inmate from a maximum security prison back into the community without requiring a single piece of evidence of rehabilitation or reform on the part of the inmate.

Of course, the public's worst fears and expectations have been realized. The federal government's own figures show that in an average year nearly 50 per cent of prisoners released under mandatory supervision will be back in jail before that period expires.

In 1980, the Solicitor General of Canada commissioned a committee to examine the mandatory supervision program. Its report, released in 1981, contains some very interesting and some very disturbing information. The committee found that prisoners released under the mandatory supervision program between 1975 and 1979 had committed almost 2,600 offences while under supervision. These were offences for which they were convicted and readmitted to prison.

Their crimes included 31 murders, 21 manslaughter, 11 attempted murders, 15 kidnappings, 25 rapes, 23 sexual assaults, 394 robberies and 737 break and enters, not to mention 98 narcotic violations. The program has been nothing short of a disaster. Canadian citizens and law enforcement agencies have been telling the federal government that for years, yet the program is still with us in 1984.

A few years ago the federal government tried "gating" prisoners on mandatory supervision, but that procedure was thrown out by the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Solicitor General of Canada introduced Bill S-32 in 1982. Had it passed, this bill would have tightened the rules of mandatory supervision and given greater authority to the National Parole Board. However, the bill was not considered important enough to be passed before the parliamentary session ended last December.

Now the Solicitor General of Canada has introduced a new bill which he hopes to get through before June 29 when the federal House rises for this session. I would not like to think that

some other member of this House will stand in his place 14 years from now to encourage the federal government to get on with the job of parole reform. The costs of delay are much too high. The federal government must proceed immediately with the review and reform of the Parole Act of Canada.

The third reason I have introduced this resolution is that I believe the parole system is not achieving the objectives for which it is designed and which it hopes to attain. Furthermore, I think the system is out of touch with the values and expectations of the majority of Canadian people, the very people the system is designed to protect.

The present parole system in Canada is relatively new, having been established in 1959, when it replaced the old ticket-of-leave system which had been in operation in Canada since 1898. I do not like to think we have to wait another 61 years before we reform the system again.

Anyone who has taken even a cursory look at the Canadian conditional release system, including parole, would be impressed most of all by its complexity, lawyers included. Often it is said that if the public had a better understanding of the parole system it would be more supportive of it. However, the legislation and regulations on day parole, various types of temporary absence passes and mandatory supervision releases appear to have been written to defy understanding, by any lay person for sure. From the point of view of the average citizen, some of the decisions of the parole board must also seem beyond any understanding or comprehension whatsoever.

If the legislation and regulations on parole are complex, the concept of parole itself is relatively straightforward. In Canada, the parole system was established to achieve a number of goals. Parole is thought to be an effective method of achieving the rehabilitation of a parolee and his reintegration into society.

Parole is also a method of protecting the public. Parole allows for the release of the parolee under controlled conditions, subject to a set of rules that maximize his or her chances of pursuing a noncriminal life and allow for reincarceration should he or she violate the conditions of parole.

The parole system in Canada is governed by the Parole Act and by its regulations and is overseen and administered by the National Parole Board. As members know, the province has its own parole board. The Ontario Board of Parole has jurisdiction over all prisoners sentenced to a provincial institution, that is, for

sentences of less than two years, and over any federal offender who happens to be transferred to a provincial institution by federal authorities.

The Ontario Board of Parole, however, is subject to the provisions and regulations of the federal Parole Act as set out in section 5 of that act. Furthermore, subsection 9(4) of that act says that the Ontario parole system cannot have any rules or regulations that are inconsistent with the federal act. In part II of the national regulations under the Parole Act, sections 27 to 36, the eligibility for parole and when people are eligible for parole under the Ontario system are set out. There is no latitude at all for the province to move unless the federal government moves first.

In reaching a decision on parole or day parole, the board under section 10(1)(a) of the act must consider these questions: Would the prisoner's release be an undue risk to society? Would the prisoner's rehabilitation be aided by parole? Has the prisoner derived maximum benefit from his term of imprisonment?

What about the victim? What about the gravity and severity of the crime? What about society's abhorrence and the deterrent effect?

Under the regulations to the act, specifically part I, section 5, an inmate is eligible for full parole after having served one third of his sentence. I suggest that the minimum be increased to one half. There are exceptions for life sentences and for inmates serving time for crimes of violence. In the latter case, subject to certain conditions, the eligibility period for full parole may be half the sentence or seven years, whichever is the lesser. I suggest that for crimes of that nature it be increased to at least two thirds or perhaps none at all in instances of repeaters.

Repeaters who are out on parole have a repetition rate. Some 50 to 90 per cent of those people commit other crimes and have to be reincarcerated for different crimes. It could also possibly be for first-degree murder.

The general eligibility conditions for day parole are set out in part I, regulation 9. To generalize, an inmate is eligible for day parole after he has served one sixth of his sentence. Part II of the regulations to the act establish similar parole eligibility conditions for the provincial parole boards, to which I have already referred.

The question is, has the parole system, based on the decision-making criteria I noted earlier and the eligibility conditions set out in the regulations, furthered the public interest and the ends of justice?

It would be an unsupportable exaggeration to claim the parole system is a total failure. It is not.

Failures of the parole system are bound to be more newsworthy than successes and, compared to the travesty of mandatory supervision, the parole program appears to be a success.

The National Parole Board estimates that last year there were some 3,881 inmates on full parole and that 70 per cent of the paroles were successfully completed. As of last month, there were 1,520 prisoners on day parole. This program has historically enjoyed a very high success rate. Last year the Ontario Board of Parole effected a 77 per cent success rate with some 3,600 parolees. At the federal level, on average, less than 40 per cent of inmates get parole. At the provincial level, the average is 26 per cent.

4:50 p.m.

That covers the upside of the story. Now we should look at the downside. Between 1975 and 1979, inmates on parole in Canada committed 705 offences for which they were convicted and returned to jail. Parolees committed nine murders, nine manslaughters, 10 rapes, six kidnappings, and 123 armed robberies. Last year in Metro, according to Metropolitan Toronto Police, 40 per cent of robbery charges were laid against people who had either escaped from jail or were on parole, bail or temporary absence programs.

Police estimate Metro Toronto is the region which attracts 70 per cent of all the parolees in the province. In 1982, 60 per cent of bank robberies were committed by people either on parole or out under mandatory supervision. If we have a 70 per cent success rate, we also have a 30 per cent failure rate. The price society and the victims of society have to pay for the 30 per cent failure rate is very high indeed.

Finally, as the Attorney General of Ontario (Mr. McMurtry) noted in his letter to the Solicitor General of Canada on May 24, parole board decisions such as that made in the Stephens case can conflict with the intentions of the courts in laying a sentence and thus bring the entire system of justice into disrepute. This also raises serious doubts in the public mind as to the credibility and the integrity of the parole system.

I am convinced that the parole system has a viable role to play in our penal and justice systems. However, I am equally convinced the protection of the public must be the top priority. I am not so naive as to think we will ever build a perfect system, but I think we can build a better system.

As a first step, I would urge the federal government to increase immediately the general

eligibility period for parole and day parole to one half of a sentence imposed by the courts. I simply do not expect the existing eligibility periods are adequate to serve either as a deterrent or to express society's total rejection of a crime, especially crimes of a more violent nature.

I appreciate that increasing the eligibility periods may serve to exacerbate the problem of overcrowding in jails which exists at some of our national and provincial institutions. However, easy parole does not represent a viable or legitimate answer to an overcrowding problem. Nothing more quickly undercuts confidence in the court system than to have sentences routinely altered by the parole board. The answer to the overcrowding problem lies not in easy parole, but in other approaches, such as non-institutional sentencing options for nonviolent offenders.

I would hope the federal government would undertake a review of the Parole Act and give consideration to the matter raised by the Attorney General. The Attorney General has suggested the Parole Act is seriously flawed and dangerously inadequate in that the criteria established in clause 10(1)(a) of the act do not include the factors I mentioned earlier, such as gravity of the offence, societal abhorrence and deterrents. These inadequacies would have to be addressed in any meaningful reform of the legislation.

Now would appear to be an opportune moment for the federal government to review and reform the federal Parole Act. Bill C-19 will significantly alter sections of the Criminal Code. The Solicitor General of Canada has issued new regulations on temporary absences, and legislation is in place to reform mandatory supervision, if and when it is passed.

It is my understanding the federal government intends to undertake a year-long review of the sentencing procedures in Canada. Surely in the midst of all the changes to all these matters which impact directly on the parole system, it would make sense for the federal government to review the Parole Act and the parole system itself.

In response to Ontario's Attorney General, the federal Solicitor General has only recently written to the attorneys general of the provinces, inviting them to participate in a review of corrections. Let us hope the meeting does occur. Let us hope his government will not take 61 years to undertake the second reform of the Parole Act.

Mr. Mancini: The member talks about taking time to do things. The member's party has been in office for 41 years.

Mr. McKessock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to address this resolution. I

have no difficulty believing this resolution to review and reform the Parole Act has been tabled as a result of the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) falling prey to the provincial Attorney General's own rhetoric of the past month.

The Attorney General's emotional and irrational outbursts of late have certainly aided his goal of fanning public fears that thousands of violent criminals have been set loose on society without having been adequately punished. Unfortunately, his outbursts have done little to represent the true state of corrections in Canada. I welcome the opportunity to present some of the facts in this matter.

The image Canadians have of crime is that it is violent, far more violent than statistics indicate is the case. Only 68 per cent of all reported crime is violent. Less than 40 per cent of federal prison inmates are granted parole. Their release under various programs is granted only after careful assessment, and most of the inmates do not abuse the system. For both escorted and unescorted temporary absence programs, officials consider the inmate's conduct in prison and whether he would be a risk outside. There have been more than 67,000 releases under the program and in 99.6 per cent of those cases the inmates obeyed the term of their passes.

I believe I am speaking for the Liberal Party of Ontario in saying we are always willing to consider urging the government of Canada to review and reform existing legislation. The member for Parry Sound, in proposing this resolution, may not be aware that such a review has been arranged, although I believe he said he knew it was.

Last week the federal Solicitor General re-introduced legislation that would give the board control over the release of prisoners it considered dangerous but only if a judge agreed with its assessment. In a letter to the Attorney General, the Honourable Robert Kaplan wrote:

"As to your initiative to marshal provincial attorneys general to change the parole system, the federal government has already acted to obtain provincial input into corrections under federal law. I have written to all attorneys general to participate in this review of corrections, including parole, and I have been waiting to hear from you whenever you are ready."

Rather than wasting more of the taxpayers' money in calling for a review, which the Solicitor General of Canada is already doing, I suggest this House consider a review and reform of the provincial government's parole policies. It is time the Attorney General of Ontario got his own

house in order. I refer to the 1981 publication, *Parole Decision-Making in Ontario*. It says:

"Of the select group of offenders whom the Ontario Board of Parole had rigorously examined for their suitability for release on parole, 24 per cent of these offenders had their parole revoked."

From the annual report of Minister of Correctional Services we see that 22 per cent of paroles granted in 1983 were unsuccessful, that is, 630 provincial prisoners violated their paroles, and 725 or 32 per cent of the paroles granted in 1982 were unsuccessful.

I would certainly vote for a call to review and reform policies of the federal parole board if they at all reflect the sorry state of the Ontario Board of Parole. I refer to recent questions raised about the constitutionality of the Ontario Board of Parole's method of operation. Provincial prisoners are released into the community unsupervised. In contrast, federal prisoners must be supervised while on parole.

While Ontario does not have a day parole program, it is possible for a prisoner to be released into the community immediately upon entering a provincial institution under the temporary absence program. Under the federal day parole, inmates are not eligible for parole until they have served one sixth of their sentence.

With respect to the suggestion that eligibility for parole be increased to one half the prisoner's term, I again find myself in a position of having to correct the distortions this government has used to try to dupe the public.

5 p.m.

Violent offenders are not the ones granted parole. Under the Parole Act, an inmate becomes eligible for parole after serving one third of his sentence except for inmates serving life terms for murder. Those convicted of first-degree murder are not eligible for 25 years and those convicted of second-degree murder have their eligibility determined by the sentencing judge. It must be not less than 10 years and not more than 25.

I had hoped this government would have stopped trying to scare the public into believing the federal parole board was not doing its job. I had hoped it would have decided to stop its blatant misrepresentation of the Stephens and Borden cases when it realized the public was not as naive as it had hoped. Since the Attorney General pays no heed to the federal Solicitor General's presentation of the facts of the case, and since he is more concerned about the media's response than the public's or the solicitors', let me quote the *Toronto Star*:

"Stephens was released because, with the exception of one incident, he does not have a violent past. Stephens was not considered a threat. His trouble was alcohol and the board wants to ensure he stays away from booze before he is considered for full parole."

A crucial element in the parole decision-making process is the question of whether the inmate will present an undue risk to the community. In Mr. Stephens's case, numerous members of the community of Meaford have supported his release on day parole through letters to my office. Mr. Stephens works in the federal day parole program in Meaford to support his family.

In the Borden case, the federal parole board was wrongly blamed for Borden's release when it had nothing to do with it. Borden was released on an escorted temporary absence pass granted at the discretion of the penitentiary warden. Had the board been consulted, it likely would have opposed Borden's release, as it did in 1981 and 1983 when it rejected his application for parole. Board members feared Borden might kill again. Each time, the board ordered that he wait the maximum two years before applying for parole again.

Mr. Eves: That is exactly why the Parole Act has to be changed: to give the parole board that discretion.

Mr. McKessock: This has nothing to do with the parole board. It did not have any right, nor did it release him. Borden was released because officials of the Correctional Service of Canada, the people who run Canada's prisons, said he was not an undue risk to society. They said he had previously been issued a successful day pass, had been well behaved and had undergone therapy for his sexual problems.

Again, if the government members insist on attempting to deceive the public by misrepresenting the facts around parole, I must caution them to examine the record of their provincial parole board. I refer to the numerous offences committed by provincial parolees, including a recent murder.

In conclusion, I will vote in favour of the resolution to review and revise the Parole Act. I urge the Attorney General to work constructively towards improving our correctional policies and, to paraphrase the words of the Honourable Bob Kaplan, "assist to inform the public as to the issues in this debate and not to continue to confuse the issues."

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I am interested in the resolution, so much so that I am going to ask

for unanimous consent to use both time allocations for my caucus and speak for 20 minutes. Would that be acceptable?

The Acting Speaker: I do not think there is 20 minutes for your caucus. If it comes around, you can take your chance then.

Mr. Breaugh: Whatever time would be left to my caucus; that is fine.

The Acting Speaker: I think you can have 10 minutes now, and we can see what happens if there is unanimous consent.

Mr. Breaugh: Put it up on the clock, whatever you want.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, before my colleague starts, I was wondering whether we would get a kick at the can here again.

The Acting Speaker: You will.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, unanimous consent is great, but this really means one member is going to speak twice on a resolution in the House with Mr. Speaker in the chair. I think that is rather far-reaching.

Mr. Breaugh: It is obvious I do not have unanimous consent.

The Acting Speaker: That is what I figured.

Mr. Breaugh: I want to speak in support of the resolution. I think there are some difficulties with it, but I do think the honourable member has identified an area where there are serious credibility problems in the public mind and where there is now, I am told, a review of many parts of the parole system by the federal Solicitor General. It is perhaps not exactly an outstanding resolution to have in front of us when a review is already under way. None the less, I understand his intent and I believe it is an intention we should pay some consideration to.

As someone who is an advocate of the parole system and an opponent of the current judicial system, I think there are problems in the public's perception around the whole area of parole. In my view, both in the courts and in the correctional institutions, we have missed, by a long shot, the mark we intended to hit.

I am reminded of several instances recently in my own political career where we have pointed out gross errors. I will begin by making some mention of the Ontario Board of Parole. Donna Clark, chairman of that board, wrote a rather remarkable letter to the standing committee on procedural affairs which was reviewing that agency.

When she was before the committee, we discussed temporary absence programs and

things of that nature. She pointed out to the committee in correspondence subsequent to the hearings that some developments in the Ministry of Correctional Services may indicate that expanded use of temporary absence and not parole is a desired future direction as far as the ministry is concerned.

Many members of the committee expressed some concern about that. We were familiar with the temporary absence program, as it now runs; that is, in most of our provincial correctional institutions, people who have a job and people who would be faced with the disintegration of a marriage or of a career are able to retain their job while serving their sentence. They live in the institution and they go to work or to school during the day and report back at night. For the most part, there is not much fear that such a person would be involved in a serious crime.

None the less, to extrapolate that into a system, as she pointed out further on in her letter, the rules and regulations are being written by the Ministry of Correctional Services. It is not being done by a decision made in a court and not even by a minister rising in the House to state what new policies are, but by people who are not known to the public and not known to the members of the Legislature. The decisions would be made by senior civil servants within the Ministry of Correctional Services.

We felt that was not the intention of the program by a long shot. The committee recognized, and I recognize too, that one of the problems about parole, temporary absences, day programs and all that, is that there is an element there that a cynic could look at and say: "This is a really good way to empty the jails. This is a really cheap way to handle the sentences handed out by judges." That, of course, is a perversion of the parole system.

The member has put his finger on the fact that the media certainly pay a lot of attention to criminal acts committed by people on a variety of programs. Some are paroled, some are on day parole, some are on temporary absence, and some are on a multitude of programs the public neither knows about nor understands. I believe, therefore, that a review of the entire process is most appropriate. I do not believe any of this has much to do with how many days of a sentence one has served, whether it is a third, a half or whatever.

I see the flaws in other directions, and I want to move to those as quickly as I can. I am very much interested in and an advocate of groups such as the John Howard Society. It is not made up

entirely of volunteers but is in part a volunteer program with professionals who do some counselling. I have a society in my community, for example, which is now counselling between 40 and 50 people a day. It is in no way, shape or form set up to handle such a heavy case load, which means counsellors often burn out after a short time.

The John Howard Society is experiencing some difficulty in retaining its case workers, even though they develop an invaluable expertise and perform an invaluable service to the community. The society is running programs which I believe are quite remarkable. Several ministers of the crown have come to town and said: "This is a very good program you have here. It is addressing some of the needs of people who have run afoul of the law."

5:10 p.m.

I am looking for a support system that ought to take such a program that works well in our community and is widely recognized as being a good program, but I see a support system that is shaky, to say the least. I am looking at programs of parole, which it seems to me have major administrative problems and which are not well thought out or carefully monitored programs.

In fact, what I am seeing are parole programs that are essentially vehicles for emptying the jails and lowering the cost of carrying out the sentences of the court. It seems to me that is such a perversion of the entire concept of parole that it ought to be, in gentle terms, reviewed substantially. I could speak in stronger terms, but parliamentary language will not let me.

I want to point out one final example of what I think is a real tragedy. Just before Christmas a young man entered my office and told me he had just been released from a federal prison. His version of his life was that he had run afoul of the law when he was 16 years old. He was charged with three counts of armed robbery and one of attempted murder. He served nine years in a federal penitentiary. He had refused voluntary parole, had refused mandatory parole, had served every day of his sentence and was turned out on the street. Clearly, he was a young man with troubles.

With some reluctance, he went to the John Howard Society and some counselling took place. He went to social services in the region of Durham and some assistance was offered. When he first appeared in my office, he said: "I cannot cope with it on the outside. The only thing I can do is get back on the inside where at least I know how to live. I am going to rob a bank. There are

ways to rob a bank where you tell them you are coming to rob them and nobody will get hurt, and I will get put back in jail."

I tried to convince him that was not a good thing to do, as did several other people. He seemed to be succeeding in adjusting to life on the outside for a while, but shortly before Christmas, that is exactly what he did. He walked into a bank in downtown Oshawa. He held three people hostage with a knife. They called out the police intervention unit. After a while, they were successful in convincing him to release the hostages. He then ran out into the street and asked the police officers to shoot him. They did not. He is now before the courts.

I have followed this case with some interest. I wrote to the Ontario Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor). I wrote to the federal Solicitor General. I have had conversations with many people, and I am more disturbed now than I was before. I get three clearly different versions of this young man's history.

How can our judicial system make a sensible decision on anyone's career, life or sentence if we do not all operate from the same set of facts? The court report that was printed in the Oshawa Times gave me a clearly different version of this man's criminal record and his career in jail, much along the lines of what he told me, quite frankly. The Ontario Solicitor General gave me a different set of facts. The federal Solicitor General gave me a different set of facts. It appears we do not have the sweetest faint clue about what is going on with this individual.

In the meantime, somebody who knew he had a problem could not get help. Innocent people working in a bank were held at knifepoint for the better part of two hours. Even though there was no money to run programs at John Howard or anywhere else that would solve this man's problem, the moment he walked into a bank with a knife in his hand, money was no object. The police were all over the street. The intervention unit was there. We do not have a task force or an emergency task force in Oshawa, but we have its equivalent; it was there.

It seems to me the whole system is so wrong, so cockamamy that the basic premise of providing safety to our citizens and some assistance to those who are incarcerated is being thoroughly thwarted. The system has gone completely haywire. Whatever might cause a review of that system is worth while.

I would probably disagree with the member who introduced this resolution on almost everything he has put forward. I could find reasons to

disagree with him on the resolution here, but I believe he has pointed his finger at a problem that has bothered our society immensely and needs review. I am aware that a partial review is under way. I wish he had included the Ontario Board of Parole in his resolution, but I believe the problem must be resolved.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak in support of this resolution, which has been introduced by my friend and colleague the member for Parry Sound. I want to compliment him and some of the other members on the research that has been done into this issue.

There is no question the Parole Act needs review and reform. I was not particularly attracted by the remarks of the first speaker from the Liberal Party, the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), who said we on this side are here to frighten the public, to raise scare tactics and see spooks all over. This is not the case at all.

There is a real concern out there and we are addressing that concern. There is huge press coverage of this almost daily. I have many clippings about it, but my clippings fall short of the number that have been written. There is a problem, and that is why it is very appropriate that at this time our member has brought this forward.

Early parole is a real concern. Over the years it has developed as a manifestation of our easy, soft society. It is time it was turned around. In my view, the pendulum has swung far too far towards minimal punishment for serious crimes.

I cannot believe the parole boards, as is implied in some news articles, do not have discretionary powers to make judgements and decisions, despite their guidelines—if one would like to call them that; I think they are more likely rules. But in these high-profile cases, they are too easy on decisions, in my view, and I think this should be turned around.

Individuals who commit these crimes must understand that the offences carry punishment. It seems to me some of the discussion here indicates that while the individual has committed a crime he will not do it again; therefore there should be only a minimal sentence, if any.

It has always been understood by anyone, in family life and in any jurisdiction, that crime and wrongdoing carry punishment. The sentence should be appropriate to the crime and the board should demonstrate this in its decisions.

In my view and that of the public, this is not happening. As members may know if they read Orders and Notices, I have a resolution or bill dealing with this. It says that in instances such as

miscarriages of justice, there should be compensation; but that really does not address the problem.

Mr. Wildman: Are you opposed to the death penalty? And what about Marshall?

Mr. Kennedy: It would not matter whether Marshall got five or 10 years if he did not do the crime. That is the issue there. That is not a part of the item here today.

Parole boards, I think, have misread the will of the people. The will of the people is rapidly changing towards wanting tougher rules. It has only surfaced because of these headlines that have been created by some of those persons granted early parole who get into further trouble. Individuals being granted easy bail has not been touched, but that is another thing. It too is something our own provincial courts could address.

There is a misapplication of justice as perceived by the public and, in fact, with the soft treatment of those who have committed crimes. For crimes of violence there should be a minimum mandatory jail term. This to me means no early parole.

Some members know I am an ardent supporter of victims' rights and measures that would improve the lot and treatment of victims within our enforcement and court systems. To a degree, the issue of victims' rights has become a trendy issue in our society. It is now practically required that any person who speaks about the need for reform of our judicial system make mention of the fact that victims are the orphans of our justice system.

There is no question that the attitude towards victims, especially victims of crime, is changing. Governments, law enforcement agencies, courts and the general public have become much more aware of and sensitive to the special needs of the victims of crime. However, we need to back them up with substantive measures that will guarantee the rights and needs of victims are recognized and taken into account throughout our entire legal process.

I support the resolution because I believe our early parole system and other criteria for conditional release undermine the deterrent value of sentences handed down by the courts. I agreed with the Attorney General when he argued in his letter to the Solicitor General of Canada that decisions by the parole board, such as that in the Stephens case, make meaningless the concept of victim justice. Both levels of government are trying to assure the public this is very much a

legitimate source of concern to the administration of justice and to the courts.

5:20 p.m.

I am pleased the Solicitor General of Canada is having this reviewed. I only wish that in the interim he had powers to change the rules, guidelines or whatever it is the parole boards have so they would respond in what I would say is a more responsible way in these very serious cases.

I agree with the Attorney General when he observed: "To the extent that parole officials are unwilling to take into account the personal harm and suffering to the immediate victim and his family and the community's revulsion with the convicted person's conduct, the decisions of the courts with regard to sentencing will continue to be undermined. The serious initiatives at the provincial and federal levels with regard to victim justice will lack serious credibility."

Members may not be aware of the degree to which victims' rights movements have been inspired by incidents caused by failures in our parole and conditional release system. A growing number of Canadians are angered by a parole system that does not seem to have any awareness of the effect its decisions have on victims. I am not arguing for the abolition of the parole system by any means. However, if it is to attain its goals of reintegration and rehabilitation without exposing the public to undue risk, the system must be tightened up and the eligibility period increased.

Mr. Speaker, I see my time is running out.

I think that sometimes in our concern for the rights of the accused and the rehabilitation of the criminal we lose sight of the fact that we can also quite properly speak of the need to rehabilitate the victim.

Mr. Wildman: Your time is almost over.

Mr. Kennedy: It is almost over.

Barbara Turnbull cannot apply for parole from her paralysis; the Muglia family cannot apply for a temporary absence pass from its grief and sorrow. The victim of crime is sentenced for life.

I want to speak for a moment on the opportunity for the victims of crime either to make an impact statement in the court that would be available to a parole board or to make such a statement directly to the board itself. I prefer the latter arrangement.

In addition to the parole system, I am attracted by the idea of the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) that when people are sentenced or fined, a surcharge should be placed on their fines, and this money would be used to establish

a fund that would assist victims of crime. This, of course, would not cost the public anything. I think a surcharge such as that has a great deal of merit, and I am more attracted to it all the time.

During the last year or so we have made significant progress towards that goal. However, no one would deny that we still have some distance to go. It is not in effect, and I would like to see it in effect.

This resolution gives us the opportunity to demonstrate to victims of crime that we are committed to achieving that goal and that, for the members of this House, one third justice or one sixth justice is not enough.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in speaking to the resolution introduced by the member for Parry Sound. First of all, let me put on the record very clearly that I am truly disappointed at the tone of his comments and at the tack he decided to take in discussing a very important issue that concerns all the people of Ontario and, indeed, of Canada.

It is not uncommon in this Legislature to see government members spend most of their time, for crass political reasons, talking about—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Point of privilege.

Mr. Eves: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The honourable member is imputing motives. With all due respect, I suggest that perhaps he would like to withdraw that comment.

Mr. Wildman: Since when were political motives something to be considered imputable?

Mr. Speaker: I thought that was why we were here.

Mr. Mancini: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker; that is why we are here. I would like to continue.

Mr. Eves: Perhaps the question is one of intent; crass political motives.

Mr. Mancini: Before I was so rudely interrupted, I was talking about the crass political motives and crass political reasons of the member.

Mr. Speaker: I am just going to observe that "political motives" perhaps, but "crass"?

Mr. Mancini: Crass, Mr. Speaker, very crass. It is not uncommon to watch the members and the cabinet across the floor take whatever opportunity is available to shift debate from this Legislature to the House of Commons in Ottawa. They have become masters at that.

However, in a way the member for Parry Sound has done us a grand favour because this gives us the opportunity to talk about the Ontario

Board of Parole and the sad shape the parole board is in.

The Ontario Board of Parole is in such sad shape that the chairman of the parole board, Donna Clark, wrote to the standing committee on procedural affairs to inform it by letter, signed by her own hand, that as far as she was concerned we should consider sunsetting the Ontario Board of Parole because its responsibilities were being usurped on a regular and consistent basis by what is referred to as a temporary absence program.

It is not the Ontario Board of Parole that is deciding who should leave Ontario correctional institutions and be put out on the streets; it is civil servants in the background whom we do not know about. We do not know their names. We do not know their experience. We do not know the responsibilities they hold. As Donna Clark told us, we only know that there is a feeling and a movement within the Ministry of Correctional Services that it will from now on decide and has been deciding who should go from the correctional institution to the street and back into public life.

I find that situation atrocious. When the member for Parry Sound was expounding on his ideas about parole-this and parole-that, I asked him why it escaped him entirely and he did not find the occasion to make one single comment on the difficulties being experienced by the Ontario Board of Parole. I really find that surprising. As I said earlier, the reason is that the main intention of this resolution is crass political politics.

Mr. Ruston: Planned by Roy McMurtry.

Mr. Mancini: Planned by the Attorney General. There is not a member in this Legislature who would favour putting hardened criminals back on the street without supervision and without proper permission from the parole board. There is not a single member on any side of the House who would favour such a system.

5:30 p.m.

What we are seeing here today is a cute way of once again shifting the political discussion from Queen's Park to Ottawa. Guess who is leading the charge? It is our friends across the floor doing that instead of working to improve what they have jurisdiction over, instead of working to improve the Ontario Board of Parole which is utterly confused because they have had their responsibilities usurped from them. We hear not a word from the member for Parry Sound or from the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy), who is trying to make a career out of attacking parolees.

Robert Kaplan aptly pointed out in his letter to the Attorney General that the Solicitor General of Canada does not have the right under law to overrule the parole board. That is exactly the way it should be. We do not want people in politics to make these decisions, for the simple reason they are available and suspect to political pressure.

That is the way these guys over here operate. They would love for all their ministers to be able to make all kinds of political decisions they have no right to make.

I have two and a half minutes left and I just want to touch on one other point that bothers me to no end.

The crown attorneys appointed by this government are always trying to expedite a case by wheeling and dealing with the accused's lawyer so the accused will plead guilty to a lesser crime. I have two particular cases from my constituency—

Mr. Ruston: Plea bargaining.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, it is called plea bargaining.

I have two particular cases from my constituency where the crown attorneys, appointed by this shabby government that needs to be defeated, plea bargained. One involved a murder and the other case involved the sexual abuse of three girls aged 10 to 12.

The only thing these crown attorneys know how to do is wheel and deal and plea bargain. That is one of the most difficult areas in our justice system that we must attack. We must convince crown attorneys that when there is evidence, they must use this evidence to get the maximum sentence. People should not be getting off almost scot-free because the crown attorneys are not doing the job they should be doing.

We have two points of discussion the government should be interested in: The work of the crown attorneys who are not, in my view, up to par; and the Ontario Parole Board which is in complete chaos. Never mind all these pious comments about Robert Kaplan. The government has a big job to do right here. It has lots on its plate.

Let the government in Ottawa do its job and be responsible. The government of Ontario should not give up its responsibility for a cheap headline, which is the favourite trick of the Attorney General.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I regret the tone the member has chosen to use to speak about this resolution.

Of course, there is a great deal of anger and concern and some sentences handed down in the

courts in recent months have been very disturbing.

Recently, there was the case of the apparently senseless killing of somebody in Mississauga outside a tavern. The person who was responsible and found guilty was given a light prison sentence and was out on the streets again within a year.

The reason the accused was back on the streets so quickly was not because the parole system was unduly lenient, but because the sentence was out of proportion. It was far too light in relation to the crime when the crime was unprovoked, when there was no indication of any action by the innocent victim. They just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. They got mugged, beaten up and killed.

Like everybody else, I share a concern when that kind of thing happens, but I am also concerned that traditionally there has been in corrections a strong desire to try to ensure rehabilitation and not just vengeance takes place. The tone of the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) and perhaps of other members participating in the debate is one of calling for vengeance and vengeance alone.

I ask myself what good that is really going to do. After a crime has been committed, after somebody has been hurt, killed or whatever, the vengeance on its own does not do a heck of a lot to restore to wholeness someone who has been damaged or injured for life, to restore to life someone who has been killed. It does not do that. Obviously, the criminal justice system and the system of law enforcement should do their best to try to prevent crime from taking place.

One way of preventing crime from taking place is rehabilitation, so people who have been incarcerated do not use prisons as a finishing school in order to graduate, as it were. They start with petty crime and spend a bit of time in the regional detention centres. They then go on to an offence for which they get three or four years. That puts them through the equivalent of high school. Then they get a 10-year sentence. That is like going to get a PhD in criminal activity. I am afraid that is too often the case these days.

My niece in Kingston is involved with Bridge House, which is an effort to provide reasonably priced accommodation and counselling for the spouses of prisoners at the federal penitentiaries located in the Kingston area. It has been very successful and very positive, because it has meant the spouses have an opportunity to maintain some kind of family relationship with their husbands or their men. It means the

prisoners have something to live for when they come out, rather than just going and getting drunk and going and committing some further crime and getting right back into the penitentiary again.

As our select committee on procedural affairs established, I surely recognize there are overlaps between the probation service of the province and the parole board. There are a number of other problems to be ironed out, but for God's sake, we should be doing that in a constructive manner. We should also be looking at the reasons for which crimes continue to be committed. We must look at the various elements in the justice system that lead to a greater or lesser success in terms of securing convictions that people will accept are fair and ensuring there is a relative certainty that people who commit crimes are going to get caught and get punished.

If there is a reasonable certainty of capture and of conviction and punishment, then it seems to me it would be wrong to remove the flexibility in the parole system now, where with good behaviour and some indication of being prepared to rehabilitate himself, a prisoner can be released after serving a third of his sentence, as opposed to the proposal here that that be increased to one half the sentence. What do we do then? I suppose we let him go on and say, "You do not get a single day's remission." That would be the next step. Vengeance will be ours.

Anybody who knows how corrections work and how a prison works knows that if there was no flexibility there at all, then there would be literally no incentive for any inmate to do anything to shape up, be co-operative, try to improve his situation for life outside prison. It seems to me the degree of bitterness that would be created by doing that could be intolerable.

What happens then? We make somebody serve six years rather than let him out on parole in two or three years. In the first place, at the end of the time he is in prison, he comes out and the justice system has no further hold upon him, whereas if he is paroled and then breaks the terms of his parole, he can be pulled back in. Therefore, there is some incentive for him to go straight over the course of the last two thirds of the sentence or the period of time for which he is released on parole. If we have people serve the full sentence because we are going to have vengeance, then the justice system has nothing on them at all. It seems to me that is wrong.

5:40 p.m.

I have had some experience of watching the courts and crown attorneys and so on. Here we

have a prison system that costs anywhere from \$75 to \$200 per inmate per day, depending on the level of security. It is extremely expensive and the return we get from it is low. Recidivism is high and the rate of rehabilitation is poor. There is no indication that prisons do anything much beyond keeping people away from committing crimes for a relatively short period of time.

A Harold Ballard can have fancy meals trucked in from the nearest steakhouse, smoke big cigars and spend weekends in Toronto. That is the kind of thing that brings the justice system into disrepute. Bear in mind that a lot of people who commit crimes are among the dregs of society. Sometimes they are not very nice people, but they have not had very many nice chances either.

We should be aware that what happens in the justice system is that the people who fall into the system are in many cases there for reasons as much social, economic and class-related as because they are vicious criminals. A lot of the stuff we see on television about crime is not realistic. People who commit crimes are often pathetic cases. They have led pretty pathetic lives, have pretty pathetic hopes and are pretty pathetic individuals.

The crown attorneys I talked to were desperately overworked. If they plea bargain, it is because they are faced with not having adequate time to prepare cases in order to have a relative certainty of putting up a convincing case and getting a conviction. If a death has been involved, they argue it is better to have a sure conviction for manslaughter than the chance of losing a conviction on second-degree murder. Such things occur all the time. Why are crown attorneys harassed and overworked? Why are they ineffective and why do they often do jobs many of us find unsatisfactory?

Defence lawyers have the opportunity to spend a fair amount of time preparing cases. Months before a case comes up, they can sit down with the accused and work out what the defence will be. They can interview witnesses and prepare their cases. They can time the case to come before the right judge or to avoid a particular crown attorney they know will be on holiday by having the case brought forward. In the meantime, the crown attorney's office in many cases is a way station for young lawyers learning about criminal law who intend to stay there for only a short time. They are given far too short a time to prepare cases, particularly in major situations. Then we wonder why the devil they cannot do the job.

Sometimes the investigative system is at fault. I draw to members' attention the Susan Nelles case. After three days on the spot, the cops came along and said: "Fine. We have a suspect," and then put the justice system to enormous expense for a preliminary hearing that probably cost three quarters of a million dollars and lasted 50 or 60 days. The crown attorney in that case was put in an impossible situation. He had to try to prove a case existed when the police had done a job which I confidently believe the Grange commission will find was quite inappropriate, inadequate and hopelessly unprofessional.

Rather than barking and baying after one particular part; rather than crying out for vengeance as though this were an Islam on the Don, as though we were going to recover what was in the Koran or the Old Testament—an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth—we should be looking both positively and sensitively at the whole justice system. If it requires spending more money on crown attorneys or in places such as that to ensure a conviction is achieved, then let us be prepared to spend it. For God's sake, let us not be stampeded by public emotions into situations that could have a devastating effect both on society and on people who are genuinely prepared to be rehabilitated.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, the member for Parry Sound has put a very important resolution before this House, one that deserves support in spite of what the member for Essex South has said. The member for Essex South took the opportunity, instead of debating the resolution, to take a few shots at this good government. He has been trying to discredit it for a number of years and it just has not worked.

However, I would like to debate the resolution. The issue of the state of the parole system and parole reform has been high on the public agenda. It is evident from the amount of coverage—

Interjections.

Mr. Barlow: Is anybody listening to me? Shall I go on?

An hon member: Yes, we are. You can go on.

Mr. Barlow: In the last month or so, for example, all three major Toronto dailies have run a series of articles and special reports on the Canadian parole system. Having followed the development of this issue over the past several weeks, I feel safe in making two general observations. First, it is obvious from the public

debate on these issues and today's debate here, unlike what the official opposition is trying to claim, these issues are extremely complex. The debate is further complicated by the fact that parties on all sides of the issue have very strong views and feelings on them.

It is also readily apparent that the Canadian public has become extremely dissatisfied with the parole system as it exists and operates today. The Canadian public perceives that the balance in the parole system between its rehabilitation functions and its responsibilities to provide for the safety of the public has dangerously deteriorated.

The result of this deterioration, whatever its causes, has been to create a bias in the system towards early parole in situations in which it is entirely unwarranted and inappropriate. It has led to a consequent increase in the degree of risk to which the public is exposed. The average Canadian may not be sure how this situation developed and even less how it might be rectified. However, he is certain of one thing—that the system must be changed. Perhaps the view of the law-abiding Canadian of our parole system is best expressed by my friend the member for Mississauga South.

A prisoner named Frank Warner, while on a temporary absence pass from Joyceville prison in 1981, subjected Dianne Perna to four and a half hours of vicious sexual torture. When the member for Mississauga South learned Warner was eligible for day parole as of December 1983, he said this demonstrated that Canada's parole system had "gone completely bonkers." I think that is a description of the system with which the majority of citizens of this province and the country would agree.

The source of discontent with the parole system lies in those incidents of the type described by a number of members where a paroled inmate perpetuates yet another crime. We hear it all too often. Inmates who obviously did not derive maximum benefit from their time of imprisonment, whose rehabilitation was obviously not assisted by parole and who obviously pose a very real danger to society have been released from prison to rape, murder or rob yet another innocent victim.

5:50 p.m.

Expressions of disillusionment and dissatisfaction with the parole system have come from many sources. For example, in an editorial entitled "Looking for Justice" on the Couture case in London and the Stephens case in Mississauga, the London Free Press commented

on the issue. It noted that in both cases criminals convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to five years in one case and three years in the other were out on day parole in less than one year. In both these cases the victims died as a result of unprovoked assault.

As the editorial in the London Free Press observed, "Their killers are back in the community ready to start rebuilding their lives after only a few months in prison." The editorial writer asked, "Where is the justice in that?"

There is also, as an editorial writer of the Free Press wrote in another editorial, something "fundamentally wrong" with a system which releases violent offenders on mandatory supervision even in the absence of any signs of rehabilitation."

Mr. Martel: Who wrote that for you?

Mr. Barlow: It took a while to get all the facts together, but I wrote it.

In an editorial published on May 12, 1984, just a month or so ago, the Toronto Star said: "The public has every right to be outraged when a criminal on parole commits a violent crime, since he hasn't even finished serving the time the courts imposed for his previous offence. This happens all too often. Our too lax parole procedures risk undermining public confidence in the justice system."

A Toronto Sun editorial of April 19 of this year described the parole system as "a failed system." It characterized the Stephens case as an obscene travesty of our public justice system.

Mr. Leslie Crisp, whose daughter's fiancé was kicked to death by Stephens, collected more than 215,000 signatures in two months on a nationally circulated petition that called for stiffer sentences and an end to the easy parole system.

I just want to reiterate that this resolution is worthy of support by all members of the House.

TENANTS SECURITY ACT

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on Bill 78:

Andrewes, Barlow, Bernier, Cousens, Eaton, Elgie, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Havrot, Johnson, J. M., Kennedy, Kerr, Lane, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, McNeil, Pollock, Ramsay, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Williams, Wiseman—33.

5:59 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. Eves's motion of resolution 26, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Andrewes, Barlow, Bernier, Bradley, Breugh, Cousens, Cureatz, Eaton, Edighoffer, Elgie, Elston, Epp, Eves, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Haggerty, Havrot, Johnson, J. M., Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Mancini, McCaffrey, McCague, McEwen, McGuigan, McKessock, McLean, McNeil, Mitchell, Newman, O'Neil, Philip, Pollock, Ramsay, Riddell, Robinson, Runciman, Ruprecht, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Treleaven, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Williams, Wiseman.

Nays

Boudria, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Cooke, Copps, Di Santo, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, Rae, Ruston, Swart, Wrye.

Interjections:

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Havrot) and the member for York South (Mr. Rae) do not desist—

Point of order, the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, when someone in this Legislature on that side of the House stands there because we vote against something and accuses my leader of being a crime lover, I want to tell you that is the sleaziest—

Mr. Havrot: Grow up. You cannot take it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Sudbury East will please resume his seat.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of rules—

Mr. Speaker: There are indeed. Order. I will be pleased to listen to your point of order, but you cannot interrupt this. As you say, there are a number of rules and we must observe them.

Ayes 55; nays 16.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of rules in this Legislature—

Mr. McClellan: Who are you running from, Ed? Are you running for cover?

Mr. Mackenzie: You are a sickie.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the standing orders of this Legislature do not allow members to impute motive. There is a certain code of conduct that you, I am sure, agree should be followed. When we on this side of the House oppose a private member's bill, that is our choice. We do it by conscience or any other way. For someone to

accuse those of us on this side of this House who vote against a resolution, and my leader was one of them, that wants to lengthen the time of people in prison of being criminal lovers or crime lovers is simply unacceptable.

I say to you that member must not only withdraw, he must also apologize, because this is unacceptable in this Legislature. This member has a history of slandering Italian people; he has a history of slandering native people. This is not his first run around the block at taking people on. I suggest—

Mr. Speaker: I think the honourable member has made his point. I must confess I did not hear any of the exchange any more than I witnessed the disturbance and I did not know what it was about. I will undertake to take a look at Hansard and make a decision in the morning.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is no Hansard when a vote is being taken.

Mr. Speaker: Well, then I am sorry, I just—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So they can get up with impunity with that kind of garbage.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No. Why should we have order when they can get away with that?

Mr. Martel: Take out the sound track. That is what they did last time.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, every member heard what he said. I certainly heard what he said.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I certainly did not hear. Order.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Eaton: Mr. Speaker, may I indicate the business for the remainder of this week and next week.

Tonight we will have second reading of Bills 65 and 45 and, if there is time, committee of the whole House on Bill 67.

On Friday we will have second reading of Bill 77.

On Monday, June 11, there will be committee of the whole House on Bill 142, followed by committee of the whole House on Bill 141 and second reading of Bills 62 and 75.

On Tuesday, June 12, in the afternoon, we will deal with legislation left over from Monday night. On Tuesday evening we will resume the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 74, followed by second reading of Bill 88.

On Wednesday, June 13, the House will sit at 2 p.m. Following routine proceedings and ballot items standing in the names of Mr. G. I. Miller

and Mr. Breaugh, the House will adjourn at 6 p.m. and resume on Monday, June 18, at 2 p.m.

The House recessed at 6:10 p.m.

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